As it Happened: My Thoughts on the Decline of the United States

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This is a collection of thoughts articulated by Anthony of Boston between 2016 and 2023 in chronological fashion, as political events transpired in real time. These writings were taken from posts made on Facebook and the Lion Forums by Anthony of Boston in response to what was happening in the United States at home and abroad. The author's writings can be verified at the messageboard forums on www.thelion.com under the username apmoore. The writings underscore the nuances and precipitating foreign and domestic factors that led to the United States's current turmoil and decline as a nation. The purpose of this collection is to provide a perspective that observes and interprets events as they happen, as opposed to a perspective that provides insight after the fact. The beginning part of these passages were written during Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, and the later passages continue to follow along chronologically all the way to the year 2023.

1. "Black Lives Matter" is provoking people into supporting Trump because the "name" gives off the impression that blacks only care about their own best interest and nothing else. That's why words are very important and have the power to change how people feel. Remember it wasn't long ago that this 77 percent white nation voted a black guy into office TWICE. Any leader who claims to represent a group of people has to become responsible in what he says because his words, from the perspective of a larger community of a different kind, are also your words.

2. Trump will put a dent in the efforts of the government to de-radicalize, through diplomacy, potential Islamic extremist that are already in this country,......a huge key to fighting terrorism. That is the biggest danger of a Trump presidency. I, personally, don't think a good economy is worth having to deal with an increase in sporadic terrorist attacks on American Soil on the scale of what happened in Paris, Brussels, and Nice. But one can say, "Oh we are already experiencing it, how much worse can it get?" It can get much worse........to the point where it will leave our government with no choice but to handle the situation in a systematic and amoral manner......a style that has morally, from a religious standpoint, tarnished this country's past. Many people feel that this scenario is much better than the scenario of a major conflict with Russia......which is felt, by many, would come with a Hillary presidency. Just remember that the dynamics of the relationship between Trump and Putin changes if Trump becomes president. They may be on good terms now, but if Trump becomes president, Putin would then be placed in an inferior position to him, then, as opposed to before when Trump was just a real estate mogul. With Russia's bad economy, Trump, as president, would eventually find that Putin is almost useless to him.

3. Trump is NOT trying to win this election LOL. I'm laughing because it's just too obvious. I feel sorry for the GOP because this is not what presidents like Reagan and Nixon stood for. Trump is such a poor representation and it probably has something to do with feelings of betrayal due to the GOP's lack of support, which will be used as justification for Trump to try and take the party down with him.

4. Question for Trump Supporters? What would Trump have to verbally say in order for you withdraw your support, or at this point is there nothing he could say that would turn you away from supporting him, even if it's beyond obscene.

5. Biggest difference between Hitler and Trump. Hitler had a party that supported his individual values, not only behind him but with a majority of seats in the Government before he even came to power. Trump has neither one of those in his favor. Trump will have the support of the people, but no allies once he gets in office. So almost everything he proposes as president will more than likely be shot down by Congress. If Trump knew he would receive the support he is receiving now..... years ago, he would have started his own party and worked on establishing them in the House and Congress before a presidential run. It would be then.... that Trump could be a real danger like a Hitler. It could still happen, but he needs a party that backs up his own values.

6. Blacks have made it clear that they are totally unconcerned about equality. They're only concern is whatever is in their own best interest and that literally forces everyone else to adopt that same perspective.

7. It's important that those who are against Donald Trump don't fall into the trap of letting their desire to be right about him get in the way of actually wanting him to do a good job. Because if that turns out to be the case, then your prophecy wouldn't so much fall under being an accurate one. It would probably, more so, fall under being a self-fulfilling one. I can go up to someone and say "Hey, you're angry" and he could reply "No, I'm not" To which then in my desire to be right, I began to actively push the person's buttons in the hope that he does get angry leading my self-esteem to get a boost from making the right judgment. However, that cannot be considered an accurate judgment, as active provocation was involved on my part and I knew it.

8. I'm impressed that Trump actually cared about the safety of his supporters. I think he is becoming more aware that his words not only have a negative effect on those who oppose him, but also and moreover... a negative effect on his supporters which something that would translate to the entire country "if" or perhaps "when" he is elected into office.

Recently, he has somewhat cleaned up his rhetoric. So, him becoming more aware of what he is saying, when he saying it and how it will affect people is a very good sign. It takes discipline to chose one's words wisely, but it is imperative for a President. All candidates carry some sort of negative disposition, and Trump may never have perfect statesmanship, but the fact that he is starting to show a willingness to try even if just for a few moments is so huge and a good thing for everyone because lets face it, he is good for the country in many ways, like negotiating and economics, but reckless speech can cause so much chaos.....Hopes to God he tries to improve it, so that we all can enjoy the fruits of his good qualities when he is elected.

9. After the election between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton ended in a victory for Donald Trump by way of electoral vote, it was hard not to sense the mixed condition within the smoke of the public's reaction to it. Just walking around in public, one could feel the varying degrees of shock, quiet exhilaration, and worry affecting everyone within their space.....all at the same time. At the outset of the aftermath of the election, there was a status quotient: you could be open about your support for Hillary, but had to be quiet about any support for Donald Trump. As time is passing here and the public is beginning to resign to the reality of a Donald Trump presidency, I think a new perspective will began to come into play, one which doesn't involve putting aside the old attitude toward President Donald Trump, (which is one of contempt by those who supported Hillary Clinton and one of optimism by those who supported Donald Trump) but embracing a new attitude that encompasses all the qualities of our President and judges fairly according to that metric. If we take everything into context, we can paint a clear picture of what Donald Trump will bring to the table. As it applies to everyone, there will be some bad but also some good. Throughout the campaign, in the public's observance of the words and actions of Donald Trump, many notions about him came to light. One of the earliest was that he was a racist, which was extrapolated mainly from two incomplete and controversial quotes of his. The first was, "Ban all Muslims," and the second was "Build a Wall." Now before I elaborate, I want first to try and define what exactly is a racist, which is not easy because I think there are varying degrees as almost everyone I have ever met, of any nationality, all had some reservations, both good and bad, about people of a different ethnicity. My definition is someone who actively discriminates against a large group of people, as opposed to individuals, on the basis of DNA, i.e. skin color, eyes, hair texture, etc. There are sources which indicate that Trump has done this form of discrimination at least once in his life, but there are also sources that show he's done just the opposite. Does it cancel out? However, judging from one's own eyes by watching his campaign, Trump's terminology, can be argued as racist as many Muslims, the religion of those he wants to

ban(until something is figured out with regards to terrorism as Trump stated directly after) are of middle eastern descent and Mexico, the country that he wants to build a wall around, is made up of Hispanics. However, with that argument of racism, his words should also be interpreted, as a counter-argument, to be excessively nationalistic when coming from the angle of him not expressing the desire to ALSO exile the Hispanics and Muslims that are here legally, many of whom are employed by Donald Trump. I believe that from his campaign, in his verbal attacks, it's more fair, AT THE MOMENT, to take him as excessively nationalistic and traditionalistic because the targets of those attacks are subjects outside of the borders of this country or in the U.S. illegally, illegally being something which has to be considered a legitimate issue because we are a nation of laws. However, to the credit of the left, we cannot send a message of animosity to those who are here illegally. So as a way to circumvent the offensiveness taken by Trump's wording used to describe his desire to tackle illegal immigration, citizens should take on a more than usual accommodating attitude towards illegals in order to reduce overall hostility arising from interpretation. It makes up for the lack of diplomacy.....in a way at least. But anyway and moreover, can Trump's geographical nationalism be labeled as racism? Just like "angry" cannot be placed on the level with "murderer," or "competitiveness" placed on the level with "jealousy," or "free thinker" with "mentally ill" even though a devolving process can take place and lead to the more unfavorable aspects of those qualities, Nationalism and Traditionalism on the basis of country, and not ethnicity cannot be rushed to judgment of being on the level of "racist." Trump in his repeated expression of "Make American Great Again," and his discontent, as it pertains to other countries and nations, shows a man that sees this country as becoming something unfamiliar to him. His campaign showed him to be an extreme traditionalist that wants to preserve what he knew as America or basically a certain status quo. Only someone who has lived during the 80's and 90's when America truly was great can understand Trump's nostalgia. Even if you are like myself, alarmed at his verbal expression and lack of diplomacy......one can still acknowledge the the winning attitude, the optimism, the longing for the the good ole days as qualities of Trump that are worthy of being used to measure his lack of diplomacy against....even if just for the sake of being fair. There is good and bad to everything... just as there is something to lose and something to gain in everything. As long as there is a measure of solidarity within Trump's working environment, one should always feel hopeful that Trump in his weak points won't allow a devolvement, but muster up whatever he can in the way of evolvement, even if just by small increments.

10. In addition to the qualities I have mentioned, it's very important to make sure we touch base on another controversial quality that is being

thrown around with much inaccuracy or incompleteness and that is the quality of diplomacy. I often say Trump lacks diplomacy, but now I realize I was somewhat wrong, or in other words, INCOMPLETE. To say Donald Trump lacks tact and diplomacy is incomplete because those traits can be defined as multi-directional....meaning that its application in one direction doesn't automatically correlate to the same degree of how it would be applied, by that same person, in all directions. If that was the case, Donald Trump would get into a fight every time he met with someone face to face. But what is happening is that every single time he meets face to face with someone(even those initially opposed to him), they come out of the meeting with a totally different perspective of him as we have already seen many times. So why is it easy for Donald Trump to display a measure of tact and diplomacy with individuals directly, even to those who hate him, on an interpersonal basis.....but struggle to find the right words when expressing himself outwardly and indirectly through speech and social media? One can argue he is doing this on purpose, but even the most overt forms of what is considered to be human rebellion... all seem to carry a fundamental lack of energy and inclination toward the very action that is being rebelled against. So, one has to ask themselves how important is the quality of one form of diplomacy....... as we see in large quantity in the case of Donald Trump with regards to face to face or interpersonal communication ......in comparison to the other form, as it relates to communicating indirectly through public speech and social media, which we see lacking in the case for Donald Trump. Is one more important than the other? At this point, only time will tell.

11. So far in office as of January 29, 2017, President Trump has taken measures on many of his campaign promises. The most significant being the executive order to temporarily ban immigrants from seven countries: Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen with the Syrian immigration ban lasting until further notice. His reasoning is based on the terrorist threat that immigration from those areas pose to the United States. The executive order has led to numerous protests throughout the US. Many are calling into question America's moral fiber..... sounding off with sayings such as "this is not us" ....pertaining to how America operates with regard to foreign policy and immigration. But when one looks back at the history of US immigration, Trump's actions in regard to the refugee crisis are not out of line with typical American immigration policy toward Non-Nordic peoples especially in response to a crisis. In the early 1900s, Japanese and people of India were denied entry to this country purely based on a belief of a lack of racial assimilability with the European American race. In the 1940's, thousands of Jews migrating from Europe to the US in order to escape the Holocaust were denied entry based on the State Department's fear that many of them could be Nazi Spies. In the late 70's, President Jimmy Carter, in response to the Iranian Hostage

Crisis, banned all Iranians from entering the United States. Many say this is not the United States, but when you look back at History and the fact that Trump was able to effectuate such a restriction in today's age with astounding ease, it's safe to say that this is indeed the United States. The bottom line is this, virtue and attempts to survive don't always mix. While many want to consider Christianity the backdrop of America, the reality is that much of the things we enjoy in America today is the result of some backing away from those religious principles. Obviously you want to strive in the way of virtue, but the sustenance and sometimes survival of countries and nations requires much more than virtue, leaving governments and populace with no choice but to seek a middle ground. Ideally it would feel great to fully align America with the teachings of Jesus Christ, but in actuality, doing so would require a sacrifice that many are not ready to make. While protesting on behalf of the refugees is mandatory due to the lack of statesmanship coming from the Trump administration, one has to be somewhat elated at the fact that Trump presents to many of those who didn't vote for him... the aspect of Plausible Deniability.... along with getting to enjoy the benefit of feeling safer from the threat of terrorism and at the same time.... being able look at oneself in the mirror at night with a good conscience.

12. Stephen Bannon, former executive chairman of Breibart News and loyal tea party conservative who served as Donald Trump's presidential campaign CEO and later on, after Trump's election victory, as his chief strategist and senior counselor, has recently been elevated to a seat on the National Security Council. Drawing ire from both Republicans and Democrats alike, Trump decision to promote Bannon to such a position remains controversial as there is still some uncertainty about where Stephen Bannon stands ideologically. Most of the trepidation and angst that surrounds Stephen Bannon's name is due to his tenure as executive chairman of Breibart News, an extreme right winged news organization that has attracted the attention some of the more feared sections of society like the Neo-Nazis and the KKK. His position within the organization has drawn a great deal of criticism from the media and members of the government. Stephen Bannon's politics can currently be classified as those which represent Tea Party conservatism: Hard Work, freedom from Government Control, and adoption of Judeo-Christian values...all of which can easily be entangled (into) or interpreted (into) the full-scale ideology of other Anti-Establishment organizations, even if there are some significant distinctions. His Anti-Government rhetoric in previous years has been mainly in response to the U.S. Government's handling of the 2008 Financial Crisis. Consigning trillions of dollars over to the banking industry, the United States government sparked some outrage and ignited a wave of Tea Party sentiment who view the bailout as an act of betrayal to U.S. taxpayers. Contending with the sense of security that the bailout has

given to the general public on just how far the Government will go to avoid a financial collapse, Bannon has persistently tried for many years to spark a sense of urgency from the public of just how dire our financial situation is as it relates to U.S. fiscal and trade deficits and how that makes many current government welfare programs unsustainable. For years, Bannon has been outspoken on this matter. Recently, Bannon has been held by the media as the influential force behind Trump's administration, which is perhaps another reason why he is gaining so much notoriety in the process as someone to be feared; but this is mainly as a result of Bannon being on the same page as other Tea Party conservatives in the White House, especially as it relates to government spending....something that may cause a rift between the party and the President of the United States who has stated his intent to increase government spending.

13. Something that has been easy to gather from observation of Donald Trump's selection of cabinet members is his strong tendency to select very strong grassroots Tea Party supporters, and by grassroots, I am strongly conveying its distinction from the more astroturf Tea Party sectors which can be grouped in with basic Republicans due to the influence of corporate lobbyist, which has given the Tea Party in general, a pro-business reputation. However, true grassroots tea party perspective is not pro business, as much as it is free-market with "free" being the keyword there. Any positive business aspect that is generated has to be regarded as a by-product of that founding principle. The Tea Party has to be defined first and foremost in terms of freedom. The only word that "pro" can be attached to in describing real grassroots Tea Party principles is "freedom" Over the years, what it is to be a Tea Party member has changed. Members who join continue to follow the same pattern of allowing corporate lobbyist to dictate the direction and principles of the party, turning it into a more pro-business entity than it wants to be. Just to re-iterate, the pro-business side of Tea Party agenda operates only as a by-product of it's founding principle of Freedom. Currently in the White House, the true grassroots portion of the Tea Party has more influence than it has had in years with three key individuals in position to enact changes along those founding principles: Stephen Bannon, Ben Carson, and Paul Ryan. Stephen Bannon as a member of the National Security Council, Ben Carson as a nominee to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and Paul Ryan as the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. Trump's choice of Bannon and Carson as his cabinet members had more to do with the loyalty they showed to his campaign than their political ideologies; Bannon, as the CEO of his campaign and Ben Carson as a someone who often spoke up on behalf of Trump, even during times when the election was not in Trump's favor. However, Bannon and Carson's loyalty doesn't lie in the hands of one person as many would like to believe. While there is a strong support of Donald

Trump from both Carson and Bannon, their absolute loyalty resides in the values and principles that the Tea Party was initially based upon: Freedom, Hardship/Hard work as a virtue, and Judeo-Christain ethics. Recently, there has been reports of conflict within the staff of Donald Trump and if this is not the case now, eventually it will be so because the dilemma between what the public wants and what Tea Party supporters want and feel America needs will began to present itself. Is America prepared to deal with some of the sacrifices that Tea party supporters are prepared to effectuate in the name of maintaining what they feel are America's founding characteristics and ultimate freedom? The support by the public for Donald Trump was not based on a preparation for sacrifices, nor was that any part of Trump rhetoric. Support for Donald Trump was based on making life in America better by bringing in more jobs and reducing the threat of terrorism as quickly as possible. The grassroots Tea Party supporters have a perspective that while those promises are great, they cannot come as a permanent resolution without facing some kind of hardship over a period of time. Bannon has conveyed forcefully that while the public may not be aware of it, the crisis (not just foreign and domestic, but also financial) is at a very critical stage at this very moment and if America doesn't prepare now by extracting itself from Government influence, the breaking point will just devastate the country beyond repair. The difficulty is articulating hardship and vigilance as a worthwhile pursuit; something that no one wants to hear. Hardship is a scenario that is easier to promote more along the lines of something to accept if already present, but promoting it as something to pursue in the name of something better in the future is very difficult especially while the current times, at least to the human eye of the general public, seem not good but manageable. This is why the government bailout of the Banks in 2008 and 2009 served not only as a catalyst for Tea Party resurgence, but also as a hindrance to what it could have grown into because the message would have been one of accepting and facing(with courage) the hardship that arose from American Banks defaulting instead of being one of trying to instill a sense of urgency on a Crisis that is underlying as opposed to overt.

14. Liberalism is an opposition to whatever is perceived to be the social norm, and it doesn't matter if those social norms were once part of a liberal movement. Once something becomes traditional and identified by others as a part of their cultural identity, the Liberal will began to go in the opposite direction. It's very possible that the same people that liberals fought for in the beginning of a movement could later on began to serve as symbol of annoyance for the Liberal in the event that their goodwill towards those people becomes infused into an official perception of their natural identity by others. The Liberal cannot stand to be categorized or stuck in certain role. That is his kryptonite. The Traditionalist, on the other hand, operates in the opposite manner. At first, a new group of

people will find opposition from Conservative or Traditionalist entities trying to maintain what they perceive to be the social order or social norm. But after much resistance and help from Liberal entities, the new group of people establish eventual victory over many forms of discrimination, turning the now social acceptance by those traditionalist entities that once opposed them into a part of the social norm......and thus leaving a new but old conflict in place.....as the Liberal has not changed how he feels about social norms, which is the very base of his antipathy and the Traditionalist has not changed how he feels about social changes, which is the base of his antipathy.

15. Understanding public protest of Donald Trump's policies-----as a form of statesmanship, and as an American cultural aspect of not advocating even the most standard of operating procedures if backed by what can easily be perceived as taunts or a stance of complete opposition by key neighbors and allies of the USA-----is not only important to the general welfare of the country and the globe, but also to understanding the concept of checks and balances the country was founded upon. The surprising outcome as it pertains to the reaction to policy under the Trump administration was the fact of more outrage coming from domestic spheres as opposed to it being concentrated to more foreign spheres. The Liberal reaction can be argued to have served as a pacifying influence on what could have been and still can become an even more pronounced movement of Anti-American sentiment backed by anger and terrorist aggression emanating from multiple sectors of foreign origin...an origin that otherwise would have no grounds for unification.....a reality that could change if Muslim rhetoric from the current Administration fails to differentiate before laws and policies are enacted. Ideally, as a President would seek to impose harsh restrictions, his own verbal style and choice of words would serve as the pacifying influence to the reaction of how his agenda is effectuated. We saw this with President Barack Obama, while some of his policies were lenient, many were also restrictive. Many would not assume that Obama firmly handled immigration, but the fact of the matter is that he did. 2 million immigrants were deported under the Obama Administration. However, Obama was not one to espouse what could be perceived as a tone of animosity toward his neighbors as he, being commander in chief, took provisions to implement his policies. That, in a way, served as a misconception that Obama governed softly and more passively than he actually did. The War on terror can be fought in 2 ways: Militarily and Diplomatically. Militarily, to oppose the threat that is there and Diplomatically, to oppose the threat it can become. America, unconsciously, doesn't have a problem with tough legislation as it pertains to the safety of the country. It has a problem with statesmanship that gives off the wrong impression when it backs what would otherwise be considered necessary to some extent. Foreign reaction or lack thereof(on

the basis of general expectation) to Donald's Trump policy implementation can be likened to a person's reaction to someone else transgressing them with that transgressor receiving a harsh rebuke from one of their own associates...... as if the the associate took on the anger that would have manifested from the one being transgressed and thus leaving that person to be less angry than they would have been. Many scenarios with an opposing force in play are good and many scenarios without that opposing force is bad. Donald Trump's perceived lack of statesmanship in explaining his implementation of policy combined with the reactive resistance from the American public is just as good as great statesmanship that garnered no resistance or outrage even if it's not as aesthetically pleasing, for example, a band-aid that stops the loss of blood in the same way that the skin naturally does it. However, the fact of the current administration's existence is an indicator that there is a significant consensus that is weary of using pacification to ease the threat of terror, as opposed to brute force. Where that stands against the consensus of historical consequence as factor in pacification's continued use is hard to determine exactly.

16. Trump openly disavowed these alt-right groups to the dismay of its leaders and even in the worst of his rhetoric never mentioned anything close to the premise that Americans should divide themselves on the basis of race. The division that Trump calls for is a division that has to do with America being America and the rest of the world being the rest of the world. From a global standpoint, yes, Trump is divisive....but this can be a good or bad thing depending on how you feel about the sovereignty of the country you live in.

17. The Federal Reserve System was created as an entity, independent of US government control, to act as a central command post that controls the US monetary supply and demand by raising or lowering interest rates at different periods of either deflation or inflation. The reason for this is based on the concept that when inflation is allowed to flow unhindered, the economy becomes ripe for a sudden bust or crash due to a black swan event, which can be described as a sudden unforeseen circumstance that causes widespread panic and leads to the most feared scenario of any economy and that is everyone demanding their money at one time. Due to the sudden demand, Banks are left unable to acquire the capital needed to issue the money that everyone is trying to withdraw from their accounts and an economic depression ensues. The FDIC, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, was created so that everyone's money held by the bank would be ensured by the Federal Government. Even if it didn't exist, it created enough public confidence to mitigate the possibility of the number 1 killer of any economy happening again, which is everyone trying to withdraw their money at one time and the banks not being able to get

the credit(from other banks) needed to fund those transactions. A good question to ask is why is it easy to look at monetary issues from such an objective point of view that calls for the creation of elaborate contingency plans and systematic execution of those plans against unfavorable circumstances....why is it easy to manage all economic issues from that perspective but in transition to politics and social issues, it becomes harder for humans to observe from that angle. The reason for that comes from a lack of awareness that too much of anything is bad....and just like economics when the economy is expanding during inflationary periods, the too little of what has been happening whether considered favorable or unfavorable which in the case of an economy is deflationary periods, there is a tendency for the opposite circumstance to react in a very profound manner similar to a bolt of electricity, which is produced when the imbalance of protons and neutrons are being restored to equilibrium by an electron traveling from negative to positive. In politics, the war in Afghanistan in reaction to the tragedy of 9/11 and the desire to give justice to the families and victims of it can be considered a time of great equilibrium in the United States, but that proton of Pro Americanism continued to travel unopposed and eventually led to the war in Iraq which precipitated a movement of just the opposite, Liberalism, which, for the case of explaining the analogy, is a neutron in relation to the Pro-Americanism of the war in Afghanistan. So as the proton(Pro Americanism from the War in Afghanistan) traveled and led to the War in Iraq, it created an imbalance of protons and neutrons(Liberalism, just for the sake of this argument) that caused an electron to produce a charge by traveling from negative to positive in order to restore the equilibrium and thus setting off the movement of Liberalism and the election of Barack Obama. In order to reverse harmful policies and actions created by unopposed Pro Americanism that led to the War in Iraq, Liberalism traveled in its prospective direction for 8 years until another imbalance occurred leading to another electric charge and setting the protons(Pro Americanism for the sake of argument) back in motion. However, judging from the protests and indignation in response to the Trump administration, it's possible that the electric charge which sparked the Pro Americanism that resulted in Donald Trump's election victory set in motion protons traveling much faster than normal and in turn creating another Pro-American/Liberal imbalance.

18. While President Trump has lost credibility on many policy-related issues as being beneficial to the country, many are failing to recognize the importance of one very crucial intention that could make or break the U.S. in its desire to avoid a major conflict with another country and that is Trump's desire for military rearmament. While the U.S. is known to have the strongest military in the world, many have begun to draw a conclusion that Russia is not far behind. As many around the world sleep well because

of the existence of NATO, the fact remains that in the event of a nuclear crisis, the plan by NATO in response to an attack from another country is retaliation. Russia, on the other hand, at least to my knowledge and I could be wrong, their doctrine is one that is pre-emptive. So if a crisis between Russia and US were to occur, Russia would strike first. But for their sake, that strike would have to decimate the US completely, otherwise they would face a complete nuclear retaliatory attack from the US and western Europe that would certainly wipe Russia off the map and into biblical oblivion. Why Trump's military spending goal is so important has to due with a lesson from history and an overlooked possible negative outcome for the US. The last time the US engaged in a major military re-armament was during the Reagan administration which led to the end of cold war. Our military capability as a result of Reagan's military expansion led to USSR president Gorbachev's decision to democratize soviet politics. Our military power alone was enough to convince a long-time enemy to acquiesce in their global expansionism. Had Reagan not pursued this rearmament, there is no telling where or what the Cold War could have led to. As long as Trump is in office, and as long as he is unwilling to engage in pacification politics though statesmanship, it will become more of a necessity for him to adopt some sort of conciliatory measure, which in this case would be fear and intimidation serving as the pacifying element. While it seems like the end result of military rearmament is war, the fact that Reagan did this very same thing which led to the end of the Cold War without bloodshed between the Soviets and the U.S. is proof that this is not always the case. Much of our current conflict with Russia is based on one fact and that is the double standard set by the US in which it is ok for them to throw around their geopolitical weight by attacking countries that don't believe in their form of democracy and restricting other countries from doing the same. Strength and position and the maintenance of it is an overlooked factor in politics as being a desired key element integral to a nation's existence and survival. However, the U.S. to their credit never looks to expand territory-wise; the U.S. mostly seeks to contain. Something that cannot be said to be a goal of other country's leaders if they were in the same position.

19. Ben Carson, the current secretary of Housing and Urban Development(HUD), recently made a statement about slaves that drew quite a bit of backlash. While giving a speech, and talking about immigration, he made reference to African slaves that were brought to this country on slave ships by describing them as immigrants who came here in the hopes of having a better life and being willing to work harder and longer to achieve that goal. Historical record informs us that Africans in captivity were brought to the U.S. by way of trade between their West African captors and European American merchants. The journey could hardly be considered voluntary, which is a manner that would fall under

the official definition of "immigrant," at least to my understanding. Of course he could have meant it figuratively, but in politics, the status quo deems that words are never to be left open to public interpretation. So to avoid confusion, the norm is for public officials to remain literal in every sense, and if they have to digress from that, at least clarify what was meant by statements made in a figurative sense. I didn't watch the entire speech, so I do not know for sure if he later clarified what he meant in his reference to African slaves as immigrants. Speech has not been a strong point for Ben Carson. Even running against another candidate in Donald Trump whose choice of words were very controversial, Ben Carson ended up being more scrutinized which caused him to lose his position in the polls and eventually drop out of the GOP Presidential race. Ironically, his speaking and clarification on behalf of Donald Trump's words and actions played a major role in Trump getting elected. The key to understanding Ben Carson is not looking at him as a man of words, but as a man of action, which is a staple of Tea Party politics. Bannon, Carson, and the rest of the Tea Party representatives currently in the White House are not looking to make a point. They are looking to drastically alter the system or current establishment.

20. Richard Nixon is the overlooked hero of Civil Rights. While laws were passed to establish civil rights before Nixon's term, it was his actions during his term that really solidified the rights of African Americans. He doesn't get the credit he deserves because of the way he went about doing it. It was so objective and strategic that paying attention the methodology sort of takes away from any sense of triumph that would come from the end result. Nixon pushed for civil rights as a way to do the right thing, but at the same time held back on civil rights as a way to get re-elected. He zig-zaged and zig-zaged and before you know it, all schools in the south were desegregated without a drop of blood and not only that, he was able to maintain the votes of the white southerners who deeply opposed desegregation and get elected for a second term. It was, in my opinion, the greatest political feat in history. Nixon's re-election opened the door for all politicians to take up the cause of minorities without fear of losing votes. Many of the policies and laws passed during his administration served as the foundation of what made America Great. Everyone loves Reagan. But without Nixon, the 80's, as it was, would have never been. It was Nixon who ended the draft, leaving parents able to sleep soundly at night knowing their children would not have to fight in a war they chose not to. It was Nixon who got America off the Breton Woods gold standard and into a floating exchange rate which led to the credit expansion that allowed for the technology boom of the 80's and 90's as banks were able to lend more. It was Nixon who established the right for Native Americans to control their own tribal affairs. It was Nixon who fought for equal employment opportunity for Blacks and desegregated schools in the south.

It was Nixon who ended the Vietnam War with some sense of honor. It was Nixon who established positive trade relations with Russia and China. Sure Nixon said some questionable things in private, but let his actions speak for itself. While the foundation of a home is nothing to gawk at, its very existence provides stability to everything else.

21. The credibility of the office of the President is in jeopardy. While much of what our President says is oftentimes outrageous, the majority of the nation and world doesn't take him seriously because this is the tone he set from the very start of his presidential campaign. Its nothing new and highly expected and in that sense not as much of a threat to the nation as it would be if it was a president saying such things that didn't have the history of vulgarity that Trump has. The Office of President, more so than the nation, is in danger. If 4 years go by and this continues with no alteration or major upheaval domestically or globally, many will just assume that the Office of President is just a title and anyone in that position is basically nothing to be concerned about or even worth listening to. Not only that, various agencies in the Government will make provisions as to how information is shared with future presidents further alienating the position from any major influence. After Trump, a vacancy to the office of President could be filled by a blow-up doll and it would make no difference to anyone.

22. The London mayor, in the aftermath of the London terror attacks, mentioned that terror attacks are something that the citizens of London should get use to. He is right in the sense that terror attacks are a part of human existence, however it will be very difficult to get use to the fact that terror attacks occur in places or against targets in which the perpetrator is familiar. And now with cultures becoming more and more diverse, the aspect of someone with a different ethnicity being upset with the establishment and taking out his frustration through bombings, shootings, or vehicular homicide will be difficult for natives of that culture to get use to....... especially when there is antipathy coming from the people who represent the same ethnicity of the perpetrator, even if it's off in the distance. Ever heard of the saying, familiarity breeds contempt? Well that concept is the reason that racialist like David Duke, Malcolm X, and Louis Farrakhan will always be relevant. Terror from different ethnic groups arising from their familiarity and contempt with a certain culture(even their own) is the reason why all of a sudden everything preached by these figures I mentioned goes from being gibberish to being gospel. The anger of a terrorist cannot acknowledge that even though he may have grown up in certain surroundings as a different ethnicity, the fact of he being who he is, ethnically, will often be taken as a subset rather than as an outlier. This is where integration of multiple cultures poses a problem. With terrorism and anger at the establishment being a part of existence, integration and

perpetrators of terrorism from a different ethnic background leads society back to segregation, but in a very violent manner. The importance is acknowledging the necessity of all things, much in the same way(as I mentioned before in my discourse) that the Federal Reserve looks at inflation and deflation, supply and demand.....with objectivity and a sense of control. While not a supplication against refugee immigration, but a warning of what a certain percentage of their offspring will present as the future of what is very natural for human beings, anger and violence against the establishment but also acknowledgment of who they are as an ethnicity by the majority or by another ethnicity thus creating a scenario of racial contention, and potentially violent conflict.

23. The first step in society's preparation for multiculturalism is preparation for honest self-evaluation and honest other-evaluation. Almost every time an objective discourse on racial differences has been presented, the presenter was often passed off by listeners as biased. However, humanity cannot move forward until objective recognition of self and other takes on a more prominent role. Its easy to acknowledge when someone has a comparative advantage, but very difficult to acknowledge when that comparative advantage is a result of excellence and not a result of discrimination. The good news is that ALL people have something to offer, just as they also have something to take away. Instead of solely focusing on accommodating a group of people into an industry in which the accommodating collective body already has a comparative advantage over other groups of people not only in numbers, but also in general performance.......it would seem even more wise if that collective body uses aspects of that particular comparative advantage to create a different industry for another group of people to expand upon activities in which they could exert a comparative advantage. Basically, the gist of it is that both groups get to maintain its grip on an industry which serves their prospective communities without stepping on each other's toes. Another key element that plays into the functionality of this scenario is that people, as a whole, excel in things because they naturally value them and not because they are superior. The superiority occurs in how the activity is valued by a group of people as a whole. All individuals can rise above their stations, however, groups of people cannot as their identities and all the values that come with are set in stone. The British don't produce enough food to feed themselves, but because of their excellence in management, finance, and manufacturing, they are able to use the resources from those industries to provide enough food for themselves through international trade. They are a clear example of why you don't have to engage in every industry in order to gain resources from other industries. The key ingredient for multiple cultures coexisting is the allowance for each culture to sustain itself by expanding in industries in which they have a comparative advantage, and not only that, but also expanding the

opportunities within the industry to allow for more of their phenotype to engage in activity in which they excel at. African Americans often sulk at their lack of representation in many fields of industry, but often overlook the comparative advantage and influence they have had in sports, music and dancing while only making up 12 percent of the population. Sporting culture in America and around the world would not be what it is today if it were not for African Americans. Does this mean that other genetic phenotypes aren't capable of bringing to the table what African Americans bring to the table when it comes to sport? (And by sport, I mean the part of it that requires physical exertion and not the management part which is classified as a comparative advantage for the European American) No. It just means that their community doesn't value excellence in this area in the way that blacks in America do and therefore partake less in the activity than African Americans do. A tree is known by its fruit. Basketball has become a global industry that has provided careers avenues and jobs for millions around the world. Excellence is this area has opened the door for African Americans to join industries in which they, as a whole, do not place considerable effort into.......much in the same way the British use the resources from banking, management, and manufacturing to get food for themselves while not placing considerable effort into producing it for themselves. Jews, who make up 1 percent of the population in the USA, are able to sustain themselves as a race through efforts in academia, teaching, and advising. Because of their excellence in these areas, they are able to make their way into other industries and provide more resources for sustaining their communities. And European Americans, whom make up the majority of the population in the United States, play the most crucial role in allowing for multiple cultures to co-exist within a society while exerting a comparative advantage in their valued industry. The European American's excellence in management, foresight, patience, planning and long-term strategic thinking is what provides the platform for this diversity to function.

24. As Britain invokes the Article 50 clause which pretty much effectuates their exit from the European Union, Germany and rest of the EU will have to find a way to maintain stability without the strong ally that was England. However, reduced involvement with Germany on an economic and political basis, especially from major powers like Britain and France, leaves the door open for Germany to establish complete sovereignty, militarily. Western Europe came to a consensus after World War 2 that Germany and Japan should not be allowed to lead the world into war ever again. With this, came the imposition of military constraints on both Germany and Japan by the UN and NATO, an alliance which Germany was later integrated into. Their role in NATO was strictly defense of any countries that were a part of the alliance. No longer the independent armed forces of Hitler's Germany, the Bundeswher, which the German

armed forces are now called, was not allowed to act offensively and independently. The likely scenario of France leaving the EU on the basis of not being able to convince the EU that they should have their own currency apart from the Euro will make it all the more likely that Germany will starting taking measures to re-establish its full sovereignty militarily, while at the same time establishing convergence, politically, with the remaining nations in the EU. This could prove dramatic in terms of global stability. The reason is that Germany is a bit of a stranger to maintaining international peace. Since the end of WWII, it was by default they had to engage in this role. But as an independent nation with its own military, mean reversion has to be considered a likely probability. Terror attacks are becoming more frequent throughout Europe and as a nation that plunged the world into war twice, Germany would find it hard to resist the temptation of using victim-hood from terror attacks as an incentive to expand. France and the UK are losing sight of the big picture in staying heavily involved with Germany, whom like Russia, has no fear of Total War ----- if it should come down to that. A few more terror strikes in Europe, especially in areas that are part of the EU, leaves the more vulnerable smaller nations(within the EU) with no choice but to converge politically with Germany if it wants to maintain stability in the region. This kind of solidarity would literally turn Germany into one of the most powerful military nations overnight. A major reason, aside from the benefits of a free market, for Germany's thriving economy is that there isn't much military infrastructure spending due to military constraints from NATO, which basically leaves them with a budget that has plenty of room for military rearmament. Unless NATO is willing to declare total war should political convergence occur in the EU apart from the UK and France, then they would only be able to sit back and helplessly watch as an alliance that includes Spain, Italy, and Germany with Germany at the helm begins taking independent military action against nations perceived to be a threat to the region. History would be ready to repeat itself when Germany eventually turns its eyes, once again, toward the Balkans, which would ultimately lead to another showdown with Russia.

25. Radical Islam is not the problem in the United States. The United States faces an issue that goes far beyond immigration and one that has been in motion and on the rise since April 20, 1999. The terrorist attacks that have occurred in America have not been the result of influence from radical Islam, but the result of frustration that arises in men for not being able to consummate relationships with women. This is a universal problem that will continue to grow if it's not addressed. Radical Islam/any political event is just a mask that the perpetrator wears in order to avoid the shame of having to admit that his failure with women is part of the reason for his homicidal anger. I say "part" because another factor involved is the fact that women, especially younger women, tend to

gravitate toward the very type of men who have socially tormented the emotionally/romantically frustrated loner for as long he can remember. So in essence, her acceptance of this character is considered a form of betrayal and a reality of human nature that is too much for the frustrated loner to cope with. It's beyond unacceptable to him. This is the actual spark of that mass-murder homicidal mindset. It becomes a mind that is open to anger and destruction and couple that with the age of unfiltered information and you have full blown schizophrenic madman capable of harming anything that moves. It's not JUST the failure with women that sends them over the edge. That is just the spark. What send him over the edge is her natural gravitation toward men, whom in the mind of the perpetrator, has made his life miserable through their poor social behavior towards him. The problem with social behavior in the form of communication is that it's interpersonal, making it hard to really pinpoint when its a problem. Everyone is so focused on when someone is racist or when someone is angry or someone is gay or lazy. But when someone is an asshole, it just doesn't seem to be that big of a deal to worry about. Why? because it usually only affects one person, the guy being addressed by this anti-social personality. It leaves the individual with the full responsibility of managing his reaction to this verbal attack, which oftentimes occur for no particular reason. There has to be a form of stigmatization toward the antisocial personality that tramples over the psychology and resources of others. As far as i know, there isn't one other than "asshole", but that's more a slang term with very little behind it. This character needs a stigma that holds weight. You cannot call them mentally ill because they don't display behaviors that are associated with people who are mentally ill. The only way is for psychologist to intervene and acknowledge and make clear though terminology that this "asshole" behavior as part of a personality disorder. Yes, they do it now but not enough…… and no one likes to walk around with a disorder attached to their name. Now, when this character acts out, he faces stigmatization, which is a form of public humiliation and thus a deterrent to letting himself go socially.

26. Because of the size and strength of the American military relative to theirs, N. Korea will not only feel, but also and more importantly "look" justified in launching a preemptive nuclear strike, and if the U.S. responds with a nuclear strike of their own, Iran and Russia will most likely respond and strike the US with one of their own due to the legitimacy of N. Korea's justification which was solely based on the fact of the sheer size and strength of the American military in comparison to theirs. I don't think we have enough justification for Western Europe to help us out here. People really have to sit and think about this.

27. Trump is exacerbating the threat into a self-fulfilling prophecy of N. Korea actually becoming an imminent threat to the safety of Americans,

when -in fact- at the moment, they are not. Our conflict with N. Korea was not based on our military aggression toward them, but silly political slaps on the wrists. This current dynamic will change. Our conflict will become based on real aggression from the US if this continues, and the probability of N. Korea fulfilling their promise of an actual strike in an attempt(key word there) to decimate mainland US doubles in a very short span of time..and subsequently setting off a potential global nuclear conflict.

28. All the US can do is sit and watch these test proceed. This confrontation comes down to who draws first blood, and not necessarily with the use of nuclear weaponry but with just the use of standard military artillery. Kim Jong might be crazy but he is not stupid. He won't fire on the US first and the US won't fire on them first. However, all it would take is some form of miscommunication on either side caused by someone misinterpreting what they believed to be an executive order to fire on enemy targets. This would cause a full scale military conflict to ensue.

29. The US must not take any preemptive military action against N. Korea. Doing so would change the global military climate and literally make it OK for other countries to launch attacks on countries it considers to be a threat regardless of any other factors. US has to wait for N. Korea to strike first and then use every inch of military capability at their disposal to neutralize any threat from N. Korea, past, present, and future.

30. Bringing the US military into our relations with N. Korea sped up their nuclear development and changed the entire dynamic that existed between the US and N. Korea, a dynamic that was political and not aggressive. History indicates that nuclear intent cannot be stopped when it reaches a certain point. The only solution is to accept N. Korea as a nuclear power. Attacking them on the basis of nuclear development sends a message to other nations like Russia and Iran that the US could possibly do the same to them. Besides, if we attack them first, we would be violating NATO's defense only policy when it comes to nuclear conflict. Retaliation is the best foreign policy. These preventative measures we are taking are just hurting the country. We need to back off and let other countries know that if they try a pearl harbor or a 9/11, retaliation from the US or Western Europe will be swift and final. Going on the offensive based on what someone might do is unjust. Sure, allowing others to hit first cost lives, but i would rather die knowing that the country I live in will know it deserves justice and do everything it can to seek it ...instead of having to speculate and debate whether any reaction is warranted.

31. The media and the public made a huge mistake by not taking a more moderate approach into how they respond to the Trump administration. In trying to mitigate the damage possibly arising from how the rhetoric of

Trump could be comprehended, many on the left felt obligated to espouse a different message by taking a stance against certain policies. Now, there is no exit strategy on the part of the left to back off from manifested political views. The main one being that of taking a stand against the restrictions on immigration and literally leaving one to rightly assume that open borders with un-checked immigration is what is being meant by all of the protest and polemics coming from the left.

32. Trump is the commander and chief of the armed forces. The Generals will listen. The mistake Trump has made thus far in his administration with regard to foreign policy is that he delegated way too much responsibility to his generals. Generals are always going to opt for war. George W Bush made the same mistake. Trump has to take a more direct approach to foreign affairs if he doesn't want his tenure to be a complete disaster.

33. Removing Trump from office would not change the extreme rift between the right and left. The current political climate we have now will be here for a while.....a climate where everyone can be as willfully obtuse as one wants to be just to get something to fit a narrative.

34. China says they will defend N. Korea should the US strike first. I mentioned this this before. There are indirect implications to striking N. Korea first. The American public doesn't want a world war. We couldn't even stomach our troops fighting in the middle east, to the point that we willingly voted a minority into office just to get the troops out of there. Surely, the American public didn't make a 180 degree turn in such a short span of time in how it views war.

35. The misuse of momentum is why the country is in the state it's in now. It goes back to the War in Iraq. After 9/11, the country came together on a surge of patriotism and national pride in America. The momentum carried us into the war in Afghanistan so that justice could be attained for the victims of 9/11. Somehow, that momentum gave the Bush administration the green light to go after Iraq on the premise that Saddam Hussein was developing weapons of mass destruction. No evidence was ever found and the great national revival to seek justice for 9/11 was wasted. It basically devolved into serious contention between political parties over the justness of our military action in the middle east and injured our moral standing in the world. What if restraint had been used and we only stuck with the fight in Afghanistan to overthrow the Taliban(which we still haven't done) and achieved the measure of justice for the victims of 9/11 that we originally set out to get? For sure, things would be different. Fast forward to 2015, in the wake of the shooting deaths of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, and Eric Garner, the black community comes together to

protest the excessive use of force by Police Officers on black men and the lack of accountability levied upon police officers by the justice system. The momentum arising from this gave the organizers of this movement called "Black Lives Matter," the gumption to throw the entire white community under the bus regarding this matter, openly express the desire to kill police officers and white people, set race relations back 60 years, and empower opposition like the KKK and Neo Nazis to recruit in the name of defending themselves. What if restraint had been used with the focus of peaceful protest kept strictly on Police Brutality on African Americans? Things would probably be different. Now fast forward to April 2017, Assad, president of Syria, launches a gas attack on innocent children in Syria, which gave some momentum back to America's military efforts in the middle east and their credibility in calling for the removal of Assad's regime. With it, President Trump rightfully launches an airstrike in Syria in response to it and another in Afghanistan in response to ISIS. But just like before, instead of showing restraint, the US decides take the momentum arising from righteous action in the middle east and allow it to immediately carry us into a military conflict with N. Korea by giving the order to send navy carrier strike groups to the Korea Peninsula, upset a very sensitive situation, and turn our political contention with N. Korea into a military one....effectively speeding up their nuclear program and setting the stage for a potential WW3 scenario. Momentum is a good thing, but without restraint, it usually leads to crash and the offsetting of the good reaction that it was originally built upon.

36. Many are upset about Donald Trump's original response to the Charlottesville tragedy for which he called for both sides to stop the violence and division without immediately condemning Alt-Right as racist and violent(something he has done, and on multiple occasions in the past), and thus leaving the impression that he somehow favors these groups. However, when you backtrack to the incident in Dallas in which an African American man named Micah Johnson, who was deeply influenced by the Black Lives Matter movement, planned and carried out a sniper attack on 12 police officers(5 of them killed), Donald Trump took on a similar tone, immediately after, to the one he is being criticized for. Notice that he doesn't condemn Black Lives Matter here, he even gives a word of understanding by mentioning some of the victims of Police Brutality, and the need for something to be done about it. Then he calls for love and unity. Everything he said immediately after the the Charlottesville tragedy is consistent with how he responds to any racially charged violence. The logic being used against him to indicate that he is a supporter of Alt-Right for not immediately criticizing them would also have to be used here to indicate that he is a supporter of Black Lives Matter for not immediately calling them out for their role in inciting violence.

37. The 2000 dot com bubble and bust and subsequent 2008 financial crisis was the result of Alan Greenspan refusing to raise interest rates to counter inflation. Right now, we have an issue of Janet Yellen wanting to raise interest rates while inflation is still low...beneath the 2% target. The end result of it seems like it would stifle the market during times when fundamentals point to a bull run. Imagine the market falling immediately after the corporate tax rate is lowered to 15 percent.

38. Rodman's relevance to the situation cannot be denied. The problem is that his public antics over the years make it hard for anyone in the general public to take him seriously. Of course, our government agencies don't resort to such willful obtusion regarding something of potential benefit to US security. When you look at the heart of the situation and the fact that he is the only American to ever have a face to face meeting with the N Korea dictator, one has conclude that the Dennis Rodman angle regarding this matter is very important and could be used by our government to stabilize the situation.

39. While those who are not worried about N. Korea continue to look at this entire situation one-dimensionally, all the unfavorable scenarios continue to line up. Its not a question of NK striking first. It becomes a question of what the US considers a strike and what China considers a strike. What if NK says "we will strike somewhere".... and later on(not right after) fires in that direction and purposely misses their target, and then claim it was just another test? There are no casualties, but the US doesn't see it that way and retaliates with a military strike on NK....all with China and other countries behind the idea that NK was just conducting another nuclear test. Disastrous.

40. This is the current dynamic between N. Korea and the US -- brought on by the order for US troops to go to Korean Peninsula. The US can either stretch this war of words out as long as possible to avoid a military conflict or let it continue to progress into something that brings us closer to military conflict. Those are the only 2 options in my opinion. I don't think this is something that can be repaired.

41. The whole premise of attacking N Korea was based on preventing them from ever developing a major nuclear arsenal. Looks like they already have, so where do you go from here? Is it even possible to stop any nation from developing a strong nuclear arsenal? The social construct is developed so that the species can survive. Its a natural instinct. Before technology, the social construct need only be limited to a small radius of people because humans were only a threat to each other at shorter distances, but now as technology increases, humans have become a threat to each other at very long distances which creates the need for people

within a much larger radius to conference on the subject of human survival. This need has evolved from the framework of people within a village, within a city, within a state, within a region, and perhaps now within the entire globe...setting the stage for a one world order.

42. Since ACA artificially raises the demand for insurance by forcing people to sign up for health insurance, which in turn incentivizes insurance companies to raise premium costs, what would be the feasibility of the adding another element to ACA that artificially helps increase the supply of insurance companies....which would create more competition and bring down premium costs? Perhaps reducing Small Business loans in one area of industry and increasing it another could be a good start. Start-up insurance companies could be entitled to a hefty small business loans and grants.

43. It would be unwise for Trump to do an about face on his verbal style. Most of the world has already adapted to it and can now brace themselves for the next off-the-wall tweet or statement. Liberal/Conservative protest combined with Trump verbal expression cancels out many of the negative effects of it. Trump can continue to speak his mind so long as the public remains outraged by it. If outrage lessens and complacency toward his speaking manner ensues, then the negative effects will began to present itself.

44. What this country is headed for is what we are not paying attention to now. What exactly are we ignoring these days? It seems like everything is big issue. It could be food manufacturing and the nutrition content of food that large corporations are putting on the market. That could be the problem that we are ignoring completely, which could set us up for serious issue in the future.

45. Assad ignores Syria ceasefire, continues bombing, gassing Ghouta civilians. This puts Russia in a difficult position as Syria's ally. They effectuated this 30 day ceasefire, and yet Syria keeps bombing children. Russia can try to posture themselves as humane by helping the innocent civilians victimized by this, but continuing to help Assad's regime will take a toll on their global reputation. This is the beginning of Russia slowly backing away from Syria. Once that happens, the United States will assume full influence in the Middle East; something that will officially end the Cold War with Russia. People have a misconception about Russia. A militant aggressive reputation is often conferred upon them, but in reality, they are afraid of the United States. Look at the Korean War. The US went hands-on helping S Korea, while Russia continued its proxy fighting in fear of getting into a shoving match with the US. Its always been that way.

46. I don't consider UN to be global enforcers. The UN is more of an assessment of situations in different countries. NATO, however, ultimately decides the outcome. The US and Western Europe are pretty much the undisputed leaders of it which -by default- makes them more powerful then the UN. US disregarded seeking a UN resolution for Iraq before the invasion with no consequences. Who's going to punish US or UK??? Regime change decree by the US for Iran and Syria still stands and once Assad has gathered enough human rights violations, the US will go in and attack Syria and all Russia will be able to do is sit by and watch unless they want their sovereignty permanently aligned with the likes of a Syrian Regime that targets children. Once Syria is stabilized with Assad out of the picture, US will become more assertive with Iran. The way things are going, the outcome looks like it will play out similar to the Reagan administration with Russia ultimately conceding to the US, and the US becoming, once again, the undisputed leader around the world. Trump has had so much luck with foreign affairs. N. Korea wants to talk, Assad has the global reputation as THE human rights violator, ISIS has been defeated, Russia's position in the middle east has been weakened. Trump is in a good position right now. Hopefully he doesn't concede to his Generals like Bush did, which led to the invasion of Iraq, one of the most critical mistakes in US history, as Trump has public stated.

47. Whats the point of capitalism, when socialist/communist countries can just steal innovation/intellectual property and mass produce the goods and services arising from that innovation using government subsidized industry? Its as if there was never any distinction between the two countries' economic principles. I always thought capitalism's main goal was to incentivize the individual to innovate, buts what the advantage to that if your innovation isn't proprietary and can be used on a global scale. Capitalism would function ideally if capitalist countries only traded with other capitalist countries. The West is always speaking out against the evils of socialism/communism but at the same time allows their economy to not only do business with them, but also give away (on a silver platter) any and all economic advantage. Now those socialist countries can continue to advocate their philosophy while growing their economy on another country's innovation.

48. So many times, a military attempts to justify its actions that lead to civilian casualties simply as a part of unintended consequences. But leaders know, before any operation, what the probabilities of civilian casualties are and because of this, they have to be held "Morally culpable" in some way. In this case, Russia and Syria cannot even attempt to play down the end result. It was known 'plain and simple' that civilians were going to be killed during this operation. What sort of intel would lead any high ranking military official into believing that the enemy personnel

located near a marketplace where civilians gather would necessitate an order which would deliver a hailstorm of airstrikes to the area? These human rights violations have gone way too far and something should be done. During the Obama Administration, The US was ready to declare war on Syria but hasn't taken any significant action. This is another cold war between Russia and the US. As long as Russia continues to back Assad, and the US continues to back the free Syrian army without taking any significant action against the Assad administration, civilian casualties are going to continue to pile up. With America being sick of middle east conflicts, the situation in Syria(especially for Syrian civilians trapped over there) won't change much in the near future.

49. This is getting more and more complicated after reading here that Turkey has positive relations with Russia. Erdogan is clearly an unapologetic opportunist. To me, it seems like he will milk this cow dry. He feels justified to take any land where Kurds are situated. To what extent can he feel that Kurds are a threat? Can he move into Northern Iraq based on that? How much land in Syria can he take without returning it to Assad before Russia gives him a warning….. and yet Russia and Turkey are on good terms now. This adds another element to the Syrian situation that just adds more confusion

50. Maintaining sovereignty always works against the economy. Whats funny is that this dynamic is what got Kim Jung IL(the father of Kim Jung Un) his bad reputation. He was said to purposely extend the famine that was going on in N Korea in order to hurt his people. But no one looked at the fact that he didn't want to rely heavily on imports to feed his country. Self determination was the only option for N Korea when it came to keeping its foot planted on not having to overly rely on another country for its survival. Its one thing to have economic ties to another country and another to end up completely dependent on it. There are examples throughout history of how this can get you into trouble. Look what led to Turkey's downfall after WWI. They were economically dependent on Germany and had no choice but to get involved in WW1 if they wanted to maintain a good trade relationship with Germany. Now Look at Brexit. The only way Britain could make a full break with the EU would be to leave the EU single market, but if they go that route, the country will suffer economically, but at least they will have their authority to govern themselves. Trump understands this very dilemma that's operating within the US economy and he knows that a sacrifice has got to be made at some point. Another example is Oil, we were so dependent on Saudi Arabia for Oil to a point that makes me wonder if we really needed to bring troops to Kuwait in the early 90's. A large percentage of the Arabs fighting with the US against Saddam didn't even want the US military over there. In the short term it looks bad, and like in the case of NK(led by Kim Jung IL) may

even look hostile toward the people, but will work out in the long run in terms of a country being able to make its own decisions.

51. Trade War was inevitable, but US didn't start it. China was going to continue to raise taxes on imports and devalue their currency until someone did something about it..and actually it was the Obama Administration that stepped in first and imposed a series of tariffs on Chinese goods. Trump's tariffs was is just a continuation of it.

52. I thought Iraq military had already removed a large portion of Kurdish militants from oil rich parts of Northern Iraq. I don't know how much patience Iraq will have with Turkey's military crossing their borders. Erdogan is giving off this imperialist vibe that he will use anything to justify expansion. Iraq just come off a hard fought battle with ISIS, and are in the process of trying to solidify the government. If Iraq objects to Turkey crossing their border, it wouldn't be long before Erdogan accuses the Iraq government of indirectly aiding PKK activity and terror planning in N Iraq to be carried out in Turkey. This would further justify Erdogan ambitions. I get that since Assad has his hands full and is basically human rights violator at this point, it made no sense for Turkey to return any land taken from driving out Kurdish militants, but still, it has to raise some red flags for Iraq (even though Iraq is backed by US) that Erdogan might be tempted to do the same in N Iraq if the military is allowed to conduct operations there. It seems like any attack on PKK terrorists in N. Iraq is really no different than going to war against N Iraq(Kurdistan). If Kurdistan is harboring the PKK, than how can Erdogan make any distinctions between the entire area of Kurdistan, and the PKK?

53. Afrin will have to remain under Turkish military occupation until Assad is removed from power. Leaving civilians there unprotected would be disastrous for them. The problem is that without Russia or US involvement in some way, insurgency uprising remains a threat. Leaving civilians there unprotected would be disastrous for them. Kurds, *New Syrian Govt, Turkish military ambitions, Terror groups, Russia's stance, US involvement...all makes it hard to see the forest through the trees for Syria. The Syria situation will call for a UN resolution at some point, otherwise, it'll just turn into a Libya situation where there is no direction whatsoever

54. Its very dangerous to be caught up in a narrative. Anything that threatens it tends to bring on cognitive dissonance. Cognitive Dissonance is why people will hold on to an opinion or feeling even when overwhelming evidence clearly nullifies it. Cognitive dissonance is that uncomfortable feeling you get when your thoughts words and actions don't line up with your previous thoughts, words, and actions. So in order to

avoid this uncomfortable feeling, humans will refuse to accept or express anything, even facts and truths, just so they can avoid that feeling....that cognitive dissonance. This is a mistake. In order to heal the political climate we're in now, everyone needs embrace Cognitive Dissonance as a virtue.

55. The one thing Trump has going for him is his luck. Not many take that into account. Even if he's not crossing the T's and dotting the i's, his sentences still manage to end with the proper punctuation. Trump did everything wrong during his campaign, but won the election. Trump did everything wrong with N Korea, but managed to arrange talks instead of a war. How far-fetched is it to say that the next thing Trump does wrong will somehow lead to an end-result that will end up right in his favor. If his first term manages to finish without a major trade war with China, a full blown War with Syria, or segregation within the US, then it would be wise for him to leave a "Don't try this at home" for all future Presidents to come afterward.

56. Expropriation by the Chinese Govt of a US company's property based in China will become a reality. China will make the first move in regards to expropriation, and Trump will retaliate. This is where it gets ugly. Its equivalent to taking off the gloves. Whew!

57. The Middle East conflict has become an all out Shiite vs Sunni War and would almost certainly be the absolute center of a global conflict with US/Western Europe on the side of the Sunnis vs Eastern Europe/China/Russia on the side of the Shiites. While at first glance, the middle east situation seems confusing with so much going on. However, when you narrow it down to Sunni and Shiite, the inter-connectedness becomes more apparent. Right now it doesn't look good for Shiite Islam because of its ties to Assad, who is Alawite which is an offshoot of Shia that venerates Ali, the cousin of Muhammad. However, Sunni Islam has ties to ISIS and Al Qaeda. This sort of puts Israel/Palestine issue in the background at the moment

58. Syria has been investigated before by the entire international community numerous times. Intelligence agencies from many countries has had evidence and still has evidence that Assad is behind it these chemical attacks. Right now, Trump has the international backing and moral high ground over Assad and anyone who aligns themselves with him.

59. Maybe there is some confirmation bias involved. Investigations do tend suffer from this when gathering evidence....meaning they will throw out evidence that could lead to exoneration as opposed to evidence that

would lead to implication of someone they are initially against and moreso someone who has a certain reputation. There is a likelihood that Assad did use gas in 2013 during the Obama Administration, as that was heavily investigated and confirmed by most of the international community, not just Zionist allies. Russia even agreed upon a deal that would reduce Syria's chemical weapons. After that, though, it is possible that subsequent attacks were carried out by ISIS knowing that Assad's previous actions using chemical weapons would parlay into future investigations having a certain amount of confirmation bias implicating him, no matter if he did it or not. Remember, ISIS did not go to Syria help the opposition. ISIS declared a worldwide caliphate and was going destroy everyone who didn't bow down to their brand of Islam(Sharia Law). They are just as much against Assad as they are against the Syrian people and have targeted and killed lots of civilians in Syria without flinching an eye. One thing is for sure, there hasn't been as strong of an investigation of ISIS's involvement in these chemical weapons attack as there has been an investigation of Assad's involvement.

60. The biggest threat to major upheaval in the US is immigration. A major civil war took place in this country in the 1860's for the exact same dynamic facing the country now. That's why it baffles me as to why Russia would try to influence the election toward a Trump victory. Seems like a Hillary victory would have led even more of a breakdown in this country.

61. Remember most people in the south didn't own slaves, nor had any say on the matter. You needed to be wealthy to own slaves. The attitude was that since the Govt was responsible for bringing slaves here, the govt should be responsible for bringing them back, not dump them on their communities. They feared what the freed slaves might feel justified to do to their communities if the US government decided to just place them in those communities in the south. This fear is a major reason why southerners took up arms on this issue. And right now, many are afraid of what Middle Eastern immigrants, many whom have been victims of US military aggression in the middle east, might feel justified to do to their communities if allowed to freely roam in the US. Its the same dynamic.

62. Slowly its becoming more apparent that Russia is not the power its often made out to be and is more afraid of the US than the US is afraid of Russia. Probably could have gathered that even back during the Korean war when US went troops on the ground while Russia stayed proxy. Besides, Russia is too poor to fund a war against the US and that's probably why they are using other means to disrupt the US.

63. Russia is trying to stay out of Israel's conflict with Iran, however, I don't know if Russia will hand over control of the air defense system to

Syria. If that happens, I don think it would be difficult for Iran to make a deal with Assad to use that defense system against Israeli fighter jets flying near Iran military bases in Syria.

64. North Korea releases US detainees. I'm honestly shocked. I would have never guessed that this would be the outcome of N Korea. You can read my post on this topic. I thought Trump was doing everything wrong with N. Korea. Obviously, he knows something about power dynamics that I don't.

65. Public health could be the next crisis in the US. Its been off the radar for a while now and people don't normally make a big fuss about what they are consuming. Romaine lettuce and oysters have been implicated recently as public health hazards.

66. Israeli forces kill 61 Palestinians during deadly Gaza protests. While its understandable for Israel to fear the Palestinian desire to drive them out completely, Israel still has to show more restraint. You cannot just fire on unarmed protesters. More countries are starting to speak out against their recent aggressive actions. Military violence against protesters is what actually started Assad's current reputation as a brutal leader...so Israel needs to show a bit a more restraint or else Netanyahu could end up being labeled as an Assad type of leader.

67. NATO's nuclear deterrence policy allows NATO countries to develop nuclear weapons as a deterrence to non-NATO countries who are looking to develop them. However, international right to self determination gives a nation or people the right to develop itself politically and nationally based on principles of equal rights and opportunity. So, there is some conflict between NATO's deterrence policy and international policy of right to self determination. With Israel, FDR's lend-lease policy comes into play that allows the US to supply any nation whose defense directly relates to the US's defense, which therefore automatically makes NATO's nuclear deterrence policy applicable with regard to Israel nuclear supply compared to Iran's

68. Russia is just not a country you want to associate with in any way. They outrank all other nations when it comes to possibly being able to challenge our military, economic, and political standing in the world and will always be the number one focus of US intelligence/investigation. They are going no holds barred in ripping this country apart socially by infiltrating our institutions via spying, fake news social media postings, hacking, etc. Putin was a former KGB, so he is loving this covert form of attacking. I don't know if we have the proper defense against this barrage of Russian hackers/spies. It also doesn't help that being Anti-American is en vogue now which is a dangerous prospect for us seeing that there are so many

young impressionable disgruntled young men who want to leave a mark on this world by doing something destructively noteworthy.

69. What is very alarming about any investigation is confirmation bias. We all suffer from it, somewhat, when we have a strong hunch about something or believe we are onto something. I know I do. However, government agencies have the power to confirm what they believe and if emotions get involved or things get heated as a result of hostile opposition, it can make it difficult for them to keep a non-biased approach. I do believe with Russia, because Russia poses such a threat, investigators are really trying to be thorough in this investigation and are looking fully into any and all activity that could be remotely related to Russia. While Trump seems clear of any wrongdoing when it comes to Russia meddling, his associates are the ones whose interactions are coming off as suspicious in this regard.

70. This article about the FBI informant infiltrating Trump's campaign is questionable because the FBI is not suppose to INTENTIONALLY do anything related to trying to alter the outcome of an election. However, it hard to argue what someone's intention is. Even if Obama put the FBI up to it, how do you argue that it was his intention to affect the election when he is Commander and Chief at the time and the issue with Russia ties to Trump's campaign is related to national security. Russia is not a friend to the US and Diplomatic chicanery on their part is always a red flag for textbook espionage...not something anyone should take lightly.

71. Race relations were normal under Obama until the end when he failed to rebuke the racist and violent elements of the black lives matter movement. Trump is not the cause of the racial problems in this country. African American leaders, celebrities, and athletes making every single thing under the sun about race is the problem and Trump leaving office won't make that go away. You can call out racism when its there, but calling it out on every single instance of human existence is just silly to everyone.

72. As long as fracking continues to bless the country with low gas prices, grid operators in the US will continue to opt for electricity from gas power plants over coal power plants over the long term. Shale oil would have to die, before Coal could ever resurrect.

73. The "dangerous game" is that this could provoke more countries into becoming hostile toward the US dollar by threatening to create something backed by gold. However, since the US owns the most gold out of all the other countries, then that may not even matter if the amount of Gold owned by the US is enough to back the current supply of US dollars in

circulation. The US would still come out on top and actually the other countries would suffer because by doing that you effectively put a damper on your own economic expansion without hurting the US dollar's standing. Fiat currency works to everyone's benefit because it allows more money to be printed and lent out, which in turn allows more goods and services to be produced.

74. Amazing accomplishment by President Trump. He took every risk with N. Korea and is now reaping the rewards. I was expecting a bad outcome with NK, but was wrong about it. Trump has also been very open minded in allowing Dennis Rodman to use his influence to help the situation. He took Dennis Rodman serious despite his looks and antics. The last administration wouldn't even go near him even if it could have helped them with N. Korea. Goes to show that what this President lacks in statesmanship, he makes up for it in other ways....open minded when trying to solve a problem and willing to communicate with almost anyone.

75. Racism is never cool no matter who does it. Too many double standards regarding this issue. Actually, the double standards are more of a problem than the racist opinions are. Whether you're strict or lenient regarding racist opinions...that doesn't matter....its the neglect of applied fairness regarding how those opinions are dealt with that seems to be the problem. Hopefully, we start seeing some equilibrium soon or at least an attempt. Otherwise, this will reach a breaking point that will more than likely bring us back to segregation, and don't for one second believe it cannot happen. Actually, most people probably believe that it cannot happen, which makes it all the more likely a real possibility.

76. Trump is wrong in how he is responding to the death of a War hero like John McCain. Even if he feels there is absolutely no reason for him to engage in any form of statesmanship(at this point) because it will make no difference in how any message from him is received by the media and the public at large, he should still follow protocol and say the right things. By doing this, it allows a case to be made that the media is willfully not acknowledging any attempt by him to say the right thing and gives the public a chance to see that some balance needs to be restored overall. An attempt in this manner will help heal the political climate to a point of healthy conflict. The key is getting everyone to acknowledge some facts and not fight ignorance with more ignorance because then everyone loses credibility. Its getting to where both sides(republicans and democrats) are just turning off the news, not reading the paper, and telling themselves that the whole world is just going to hell and everything they hear is just blah blah blah. This continues, and it won;t matter who is in office, what the media is saying, as the narrative that folks will want to maintain is one that follows a doomsday scenario.

77. The choice of words that Trump used during the election distorted the general nature of the policies that his words meant to describe and could have a permanent effect on some political ideologies. For example "Ban all Muslims" or "Build a Wall" Saying these things distorts the nature of strict immigration policy in the minds of those who hear it, and conveys a sense that "strict immigration policy" means "no immigrants allowed" I think we all agree that strict immigration policy is needed at times, however, when its backed by seemingly hostile terms, our moral sensibilities get offended and the perspective of taking into account that sometimes strict immigration policies are needed seem so risky now that its better to just have the idea of strict immigration policy thrown out of our psyche. And in reaction to this mindset and the heavy conflict that it has created, the opposing viewpoint that strict immigration policy is necessary at times has developed a mindset that those who don't believe it this way must surely be advocates of full blown globalism.....no boundaries amongst nations. So now we have a huge problem here unless unrestricted globalism truly is the way.

78. Maybe a heavily scrutinized president is better than an un-scrutinized president. Heads of state seem to make their worst policy decisions when their approval rating is high or when no one is looking.

79. One thing that could hurt the US economy is domestic frustration with the Trump presidency causing a widespread emigration of American citizens to other parts of the world. More Americans are opting to live abroad and many smaller countries are seizing the opportunity to welcome them. This would compound the effect of foreign businesses leaving the United States. So in a sense, the administration has to beware of the possible trade-off between more jobs and a less valuable US dollar as our economy has been building itself with debt for a while. Everything is based on a belief and this belief in the US to meet its obligations would face some tension if American emigration turns into a noticeable issue in 2 years.

80. I think we all have a fear of losing credibility in the acknowledgment of Truth that doesn't line up with up our latest assertions and subsequently being declared unreliable because of that. I'm reading Psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud and this quote lines up perfectly with these issues of today's political climate. This from Freud's book "Psychoanalysis" from pg 257-258. "No one who changes his views once or twice deserves to be believed, for it is only too likely that he will be mistaken again in his latest assertions; but anyone who sticks to anything he has once said, or refuses to give way upon it easily enough, is obstinate or pig-headed, is it not so? What is to be done in the face of these self contradictory criticisms except

to remain as one is and behave as seems best to one?"

81. Opposition to government in that part of the world is often backed by violence, assassinations, coup attempts, etc. So in that sense, it leaves administrations over there on edge when hearing or reading about criticism from those who disagree with policy. It can incite violence very quickly and administration is very aware of that. Its a bit different in civilized, European based society right now because we don't hear much about coup attempts or violent overthrow, so our administrative bodies don't get as rattled when members of the population express disagreement with policy. However, with Russia having infiltrated US democracy the way they did with the election, and China implanting chips into hardware for spying purposes, US administration's attitude to anti-government rhetoric may become a bit more assertive to prevent this type of covert non-violent aggression by China and Russia from evolving into something that could permanently cripple US democratic values.

82. So it sounds like the specifics are going be along the lines of....The Saudis were trying to arrest Khashoggi, but Khashoggi fought back and was killed by the interrogators who needed to defend themselves from being killed by Khashoggi? To my knowledge, Khashoggi, before he came to the US, was a journalist in Saudi Arabia, who exiled himself because he thought he would be arrested by the Saudis for his criticism of the Crown Price. He was also concerned about his safety while in the states. He went to Istanbul's Saudi consulate to get his official divorce papers so he could re-marry his Turkish fiancee. It sounds like the Saudis wanted to arrest him there and maybe Khashoggi fought back to the point of interrogators feeling that their lives were in danger?

83. The talk of Debt, no matter how massive, is only relevant if it begins to affect the value of the US dollar. Countries that lack crude reserves have to hold American's currency in order to import crude into their country. As long as the major exporters of Oil are selling it for US dollars, the US economy will remain afloat because the global demand for oil would automatically correlate to a global demand for USD. This factor also makes it very difficult for countries, who are antagonist to the US, to give up accepting USD because its value allows them to purchase other goods for very cheap, which thus boosts their economy. The only real threat is Russia's presence in the middle east. This could serve as a critical factor that could have a major effect on the future of the US economy. Just think, if we removed all of our influence in the middle east, Russia could spread theirs and pitch the idea to major exporters of Oil to accept some other form of payment for Oil in exchange for Russian military protection. This scenario would really be a true death knell for the US economy. It will be interesting to see how this Saudi/US tension about Khashoggi''s death

plays out. The US should be firm, but also understand that it could open the door for Russia to start sweet-talking the Saudis.

84. The president's grip on the economy will be front and center for the 2020 election. He will not only need to boast lower unemployment, but also a robust stock market in order to get re-elected. The stock market will continue to see more declines if the Fed keeps raising the interest rates. If the market goes south for some time leading up to the 2020 election, a candidate like Senator Cory Booker could eat that up and take the election in a potential landslide as his presence would just be too overwhelming.

85. Politicians are only judged by what happens while they are in office. Rarely are they judged by the long term implications of their policies. The blame or credit for manifest implications arising from a previous administration's policies or actions is often assigned to whatever the present administration is. An example is the transition from the Reagan administration to the George HW Bush administration back in the late 80's and how H.W. Bush was blamed for the implications of Reagan's high spending, low tax economic strategy that served the US economy well during Reagan's time, but had manifest implications that took place during H.W. Bush's tenure. The general public rarely sees it from this angle, and so politicians continue to cater to the present moment without giving any importance to how it may affect years down the road.

86. There needs to be something that measures overall liquidity during trading hours. This is a worst case scenario, but it seems like it would make sense to have a metric that gauges liquidity during market hours so an investor who is shorting the market or owns shares of some inverse etfs would know when it might be a good time to liquidate his assets by selling his shares, and withdrawing the cash from the brokerage firms. In recent years, there hasn't been liquidity issues that would keep an investor from getting his cash in a timely manner. However, I imagine in a worst case scenario, it wouldn't matter if you are long or short on the market because if the brokerage firms go under, even with the reserves held by the banks, they wouldn't be able settle all the cash withdrawals for the now rich short investors who are trying to liquidate, and also the losers who are trying to salvage whatever is left in their brokerage accounts.

87. I didn't think disgruntled democrats would just "walk away" It seems it would have made more sense to try and play down and even eliminate some of the newer ideas that made its way into the democratic platform...ie socialism, communism, open borders, and even anti-white male rhetoric. In contending with some of the downfalls of the current administration in order strike a balance, the Democrats never intended for it to lead to giving off an impression of supporting these things....

which is a driving force behind the "walk away" movement. Its just very difficult to slow down emotionally charged momentum by taking a step back to make an astute observation about something that doesn't seem quite right. Now, the "walk away" movement has to guard against this very human tendency of letting the emotion of it all go full steam ahead without a sense of direction of where it could lead to.

88. Economic Espionage? How would a trade deal with China's government help crack down on these practices? Is an enforceable clause(one that can be enforced in China) in any trade deal even possible....... if China's government is indeed relentless about accessing the nation's secrets? The market could seriously tank if investors read more about economic espionage attempts by China as that would seriously undermine the reality of a workable China/US trade deal in the near term.

89. I read what Don Lemon's said "We have to stop demonizing people and realize the biggest terror threat in this country is white men, most of them radicalized to the right, and we have to start doing something about them." WOW!! That's not even in comparison with what Trump said about banning a religious group....if that's the point Don Lemon is trying to make with that statement. To my knowledge, Trump never openly called for the banning of Arabs, Hispanics, blacks, Mexicans, as an ethnic group. He called for the banning of all Muslims, which is wrong and easily interpreted as a racial statement since most Muslims are understood to be Arab. But still, as I take into context what Lemon said, the words expressed by Trump was directed to Muslims, which is not an ethnic group. Don Lemon's words were aimed directly to an ethnic group. He just possibly alienated all the liberal white help needed to make this diverse America work efficiently. If he is trying make a point in contrast to what Trump said, he should have said all Christians should be considered the biggest terror threat. At least most people would have understood the point he is trying to make. Oh Well. I guess its officially ok to bash white people without restraint. America is headed for Civil War and whats sad is that....this is what everybody wants, without a care in the world on how it will affect the safety of children and the elderly in this country. But hey, at least we all stood firm on our opinions no matter how reckless and provocative.

90. Hamas is targeting Israeli Civilians. One person is already dead. A 60 year old woman is in critical condition

91. George HW Bush was a very pragmatic President. Very realistic president. I think the only reason he didn't get re-elected is because we became spoiled from Reagan's economic policies of increased spending and increased tax cuts. The policies were good for their time and served as

a major catalyst for economic growth, however, the obvious drawbacks of that combination ended up falling into the hands of the George HW Bush Administration and left George HW Bush with no choice but to raise taxes. There was no other option.

92. Socialism is when the workers own the means of production. Since this has proven impossible throughout history, socialism has always ended up turning into Communism, which allows for the State to own the means of production. Today, however, there a growing movement of Socialist who actually believe that they will be the ones to implement true Socialism. Socialism itself is not problematic if it actually works. The resistance to Socialism and the reason it has a bad rap amongst the conservatives is that Socialism has never been successfully implemented. Every case has always devolved into full-fledged communism.

93. Yes, so much ignorance and pompousness. One of the posters here made a good point about the country heading for tribalism. That ruling in the Smollett Case was most likely the nail in the coffin. There is no hope for the country. The market will be affected greatly at some point. We're not individuals anymore. Our individual perspectives don't mean anything. America as i knew it, as you knew it is gone and is not coming back, ever. Even if the problem is solved at the top as far as wealth and greed, it does nothing to circumvent the instigating force behind all of this madness and ignorance. Sad day for America when we can commit crime without guilt or consequence. Ethnocentric nationalism is the winner in all of this. Whatever you are, that's the side you're on whether you like it or not. Now, when people raise kids, they have to teach them ways to navigate through life in a society that remains uncertain, and different from the one they grew up in.

94. Whats striking about the Mueller report is how it insinuates that criminal intent is constituted from a more subversive, secretive quality in the offender, whereas a more overt public quality in the offender challenges the very notion of criminal intent. I find that quite interesting. 2 things that can be gathered from the report. The President was either completely naive of the law regarding obstruction, or a total mastermind in eluding it.

95. Help me understand the republican stance on abortion. I'm confused as to why they are distancing themselves from the Alabama law outlawing abortion. So the republicans support abortion in certain circumstances? Don't the democrats hold the same outlook? Whats the difference between the two?

96. Iran fired cruise missiles in attack on Saudi oil facility. Oil facilities

should always have radar, the best way to win any war is to cut off your enemy's access to oil and as long as there is aggression in the world, the possibility of such an attack as a first objective for any hostile nation has to be considered. Iran is denying responsibility, however, they've threatened to cut off Saudi oil supply/transport logistics numerous times in the past. Such threats wouldn't help Iran's believability here. For the West, Saudi, and Israel, Iran is the only obstacle to mid-east stability as they empower and fund almost all antagonism to Israel's existence. If anyone should desire middle east peace, they would have to also desire some sort of strategy regarding how to deal effectively with Iran. As far as I know, traditionally, since Khomeini came to power in the late 70's, the US has consistently been determined not to compromise with Iran, at least until Obama. Lets say the Houthis did actually carry out the attack, it still links back to Iran, since Iran also supplies and aids the Houthi rebels in Yemen. Of course, US always has to calculate how Russia would respond in the case of launching any attack against Iran. The most important factor for the US in the middle east is their relationship with Saudi Arabia, however, the US has to be careful not to give off the impression of taking orders from the Saudis, but at the same time let the Saudis know that the US is in their corner as a major ally. No one can expect any mid-east peace as long as Iran continues its proxy endeavors to remove the state of Israel.

97. In terms of a country's determination to develop a nuclear arsenal, there seems to be no way to circumvent any country's efforts to develop itself in that manner. There would be no way to stop Iran from developing its nuclear arsenal without the use of force, but there is no way to justify attacking on those grounds when other countries have successfully developed their nuclear arsenal without resistance. Attacking simply on the grounds of fear would create a dangerous ripple effect and set a global precedent that makes preemptive strikes from fear alone justifiable. Yes, while its a scary thought of what could happen if Iran has nuclear weapons, that fear wouldn't justify a preemptive based solely on that. The only to way implicate and act against Iran for its nuclear development would be for the UN to designate Hezbollah as a terror group. If that happens, all of Hezbollah's affiliates would inherit that same status including Iran. In that case Iran would be done for as a nation and its threat to mid-east peace would effectively end. The way Iran has been acting in terms of its aggression towards Saudi Arabia and Israel, Iran actually ends up as a result working against itself, because now any action against Iran doesn't have to revolve around the nuclear aspect, but simply around its hostility to the existence of globally recognized nation states like Israel, which would in itself give justification for a military response against Iran, which would then provide an avenue for that same military response to also go ahead and stop its nuclear development.

98. Putin offers to sell Saudis S-400 missiles to bolster defenses. Russia is literally playing both sides in open view. Russia gave Syria the same missiles to possibly ward off Israeli attacks in Syrian territory targeting Iran bases, which is sort of a defacto Russia/Iran alliance against Israel. Russia and Iran are normally strategic allies. Now Russia is offering that same defense to an enemy of Iran. We're beginning to see why middle east nations don't want outside influence. The ones who often tout an alliance with one nation would just as easy tout an alliance with an enemy of that nation, and then simply play both sides. Its almost as if Russia is insulting the intelligence of Muslim countries. Its like England, they provide aid to the Palestinians in Gaza and at the same time provide arms support to Israel. That makes this situation all the more disconcerting. If the Saudis accept Russia's offer, will the US rebuke Saudi Arabia the way they did Turkey after Turkey bought the Russian Missiles? There is a push to remove Turkey from NATO because of that. I think the Saudis have more clout in terms of its independent decision making, however, there is no way the US would not express a significant measure of disappointment should the Saudis accept Russia's assistance. Russia has been courting Saudi Arabia for years and is probably the biggest threat to the United States in terms of the US's status in the world in relation to other nations. Russia's ultimate goal is to lure Saudi Arabia away from both the United States and the US dollar.

99. Iran Warns US on Retaliation as It Denies Role in Saudi Attack. US intel has evidence that the attacks originated from Iran. If the US doesn't retaliate on behalf of Saudi Arabia, then Russian diplomatic efforts with Saudi Arabia would be able to use that lack of action on the part of the US as an angle in their attempts to steer Saudi Arabia away from the United States. The Russians would be able to present the idea that the US is not as willing as they(the Russians) are to directly confront the enemies of its allies. The Russians can point to its efforts with Syria as proof that such intervention is a part of their foreign policy. With Russia courting Saudi Arabia diplomatically, Saudi Arabia ends up having a lot of clout and leverage, which puts the US in a precarious position. The US will not be able to allow Russia to demonstrate that they are more willing than the United States to cater to the whims of its allies. Russia could easily sever ties with Iran in exchange for close ties with Saudi Arabia. a prospect that would change the current order of the world. Offering the Saudis its missile defense system could be Russia's first step in doing just that.

100. Russia's ties with Israel and Assad is odd, and it shows that Russia is not really too intent on playing sides accordingly to how everything lines up as far as conflict in the middle east is concerned. This lack of prudence on Russia's part is how the US can respond to Russia's courtship of Saudi Arabia -- by noting to Saudi Arabia how Russia is not concerned about

dealing with any particular dynamic that affects the status of their allies.

101. The reason I gather that Russia would easily throw all of its eggs into Saudi Arabia is because Russia knows that US economic infrastructure is held up solely by the Saudis selling Oil for US dollars, which in itself raises the global demand for the currency, which in turn allows the US to continue to borrow money and stimulate the economy. Turning that off would have dire consequences for the US from an economic standpoint, as the US is already in dire straits as far as the national debt is concerned, and we don't know how sustainable US Shale oil is, which is why Saudi-US relations remain important even as the US overtakes Saudi Arabia in Oil exports. Since Saudi Arabia has significant control over OPEC, which sells oil for US dollars, Russia overtaking the US in diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia would also constitute Russia overtaking any influence the US has on OPEC via Saudi Arabia. OPEC controls almost 80 percent of the world's oil supply. If Saudi Arabia moves away from the US dollar at the request of Russia, its likely that all other member nations would follow suit. To circumvent this, the US could maybe join OPEC and try to exert some influence as a top oil exporter and keep member nations content with selling their Oil for US dollars.

102. Russia, through aid and diplomacy, is gaining influence throughout the entire middle east. They are making friends with everyone, all sides of the conflict. Its very strategic on their part and will certainly change their economic future. No urgency by anyone at the moment, but Russia, if they manage to lure Saudi Arabia away from the United States, will usher in a shift in the world order with their country at the helm, with maybe China second, and the US third in terms of national military/economic power. Russia is doing this without even having to let middle eastern refugees stay in their country. So for Russia, this is a win/win scenario. US ability to control its destiny and make decisions is credited in large part to its stature relative to other countries. When that changes, the country sort of has to seek approval from the greater power. For most people, this is not a big deal because the central idea of life is to live and let live. However, these shifts don't just stop, they keep going and I'm sure Russia won't be satisfied until the US is completely subjugated to them or least diminished enough to keep Russian leaders from fearing US policy. Status is not important if everyone is just trying to stay within their domain and not trying to oppress or expand, but these days alot of countries are feeling justified, especially in terms of what the US may have opened the door for others to do.

103. Russia did the bulk of the fighting against ISIS. US forces however does real well at locating key individuals. I think the US places a greater emphasis on the head of organizations as opposed to the body. There was a

former ISIS member/Saddam loyalist who came out and said that these organizations fall apart when the leadership breaks down, and not so much when de-radicalization attempts try to dissuade incoming recruits. The problem though is still the fact that the US invaded Iraq. That decision still raises questions to this day. Much of ISIS's infrastructure was maintained by Saddam's military personnel and disgruntled Iraqi Sunnis who were feeling ostracized by the current Iraqi government. The war in Iraq and not finding those weapons of mass destruction is why ISIS would likely grow another head at some point, with that head stemming mainly from the demographic of disgruntled Sunni minorities/Saddam loyalists in Iraq. They will always be able to use that as justification. Al Qaeda has somewhat distanced itself from ISIS even though ISIS did have remnants of the Al Qaeda of Iraq started by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. The only de-radicalization strategy to circumvent a resurgence of ISIS is to work on Iraq's policy toward the Sunni minorities and help the Sunni minorities find some contentment with the Iraqi government, otherwise Jihad will remain a threat to middle east stability.

104. Battle for Syrian Town Pits Turkey Against Assad Regime. I figured it was only a matter of time before Assad would step in. If Turkey gets greedy, all of Erdogan's progress in driving the Kurds back outside of and away from that safe radius at the Turkey/Syrian border will become undone. Maybe Erdogan thinks because he is currently cooperating with Russia at the border, he could expand that radius a little further. Assad is going to make it clear just how far Turkey can go. The last thing Turkey needs is for the Kurds to gain more military assurance from the Assad regime, and it doesn't help Turkey's cause that they(Turkey) is still backing Anti-Assad rebels. If Erdogan becomes overzealous, the Kurds will become a greater threat to his administration and country, much greater than Erdogan's current outlook of them as being linked to the PKK(Kurdistan worker's party), an internationally known terrorist group.

105. Its hard to delineate Erdogan's intentions with the Kurds, whether its to neutralize or genocide. Right now, one can say the Kurdish threat to Erdogan is neutralized, especially if he has control over that small radius between the Turkish/Syrian border. I don't see how it would help his cause to feel that he should have the right to follow the Kurds where ever they go, thereby antagonizing his neighbors along the way. If Erdogan is going to believe that every pro-Kurdish group has ties with the PKK, then how can one assume that he is not trying cleanse the middle east entirely of Kurdish people? I'm not calling it that, but many in the international community think this is the case. His fear is not unfounded, however, from a strategic standpoint, getting too overzealous could provide an impetus for states/regimes to back these PKK offshoots, which will be even more problematic for the internal security of Turkey than the idea of an

offshoot of the PKK existing somewhere outside of Turkey but not a threat to Turkey.

106. Erdogan's fears stem from evidence that the YPG in Syria, which led the SDF in the fight against ISIS and the Turkey Backed Syrian rebels, is simply an offshoot of the PKK. The US was aware that the YPG was an offshoot of a internationally known terror group, but helped the YPG anyway due to the growing threat of the ISIS caliphate.

107. There is no need for Assad to bombard those areas and risk more civilian casualties. The US has already withdrawn from the conflict and the Syrian Democratic forces have already began discourse with Assad about the Kurdish situation. The opposition is effectively neutralized. There is no need to risk more civilian deaths. There is no existential threat to the Assad regime with ISIS defeated, the US withdrawal, and SDF cooperation.

108. Iran's Gen. Soleimani killed in US airstrike at Baghdad airport. Possible US War with Iran. This was done as a reprisal to a Shiite militia rocket attack on a US contractor and other US military personnel on an Iraq military base. This a major strike by the US and will heighten tensions in the region. Gen Soleimani was, according to some, the second most powerful person in Iran. According to the US, he was planning to attack US diplomats and other US representatives in Iraq.

109. The dynamics between Iran and US has now changed from political/diplomatic to military. The era of containment is over and we are headed for another major conflict in the middle east. The US pulled out of the Iran Nuclear deal and applied sanctions against Iran, which in turn may have been catalyst to Iran increasing its supply of arms to its Shiite militant channels in Yemen and Lebanon through Syria and Iraq. Retaliation could come through its proxy channels, however the US is trying to signal to Iran that any proxy maneuvers by Iran would be met with direct confrontation by the US. Trump decided to strike Iran after a positive meeting with Russia, a meeting which sort of disarmed Russia for the moment.

110. There is alot of apprehension on the part of many in the US concerning Iran because the US has a history of military endeavors in the middle east that did not quite pan out as intended,and in some cases may have even exacerbated problems. There was no way for anyone to expect the US to allow Iran to impose its will in the middle east, especially when it came to the safety of US personnel. All countries have their red line, and I think both sides have effectively crossed the other's. When that happens, peace becomes a very difficult thing to conjure up. Much of US antagonism

to Iran is in response to Iran's antagonism to US/Israel as Iran is open in their mantra of death to America/death to Israel. The US takes this very seriously. There are Hezbollah networks in not just the middle east, but also in Latin America and Africa. Iran may try to further enable Hezbollah's operations in those areas. The world has become a more dangerous place than it already is.

111. Israel's Netanyahu hurries home after Hezbollah calls for revenge. Oil will certainly rise. The war machine will increase demand for it. Lebanon, for a long time, has been leery of the possibility of war with Israel as It would be an absolute bloody mess. Egypt will likely take on an even more assertive diplomatic role in keeping US tensions with Iran from overflowing into the Israel/Lebanon dynamic. In the past few years, there has been major tension between Iran and Israel, which stems from the proxy endeavors of Iran to aid the Houthis and Hezbollah, and also a Sunni militant group in Gaza. At the same time, Lebanon, even under Hezbollah, has remained keen on keeping the peace between themselves and Israel. That all changes now. The next rocket attack by Gaza into Israel could spur Israel to take over Gaza and the West bank, which would be followed by a military response from Lebanon.

112. Iran's strategy of plausible deniability has to be taken into consideration. All those attacks on US bases in 2019 could not be undeniably linked to them by other than the fact that the rockets used are also the same rockets used by the Houthis of Yemen. For this reason, Iran has been able to garner sympathy and because of this plausible deniability strategy by Iran, the evidence that the US has for the imminent attack that they were averting by attacking Soleimani directly may not be substantial enough for the already skeptical public sentiment towards this administration. While the US is not the shining moral example because of mistakes in the past up to now, one still has to be vigilant that one's own sentiment isn't playing into the hands of an open enemy to the US. Familiarity breeds contempt, and many Americans are entirely too familiar and frustrated with US policy, but at the same time, its important not to let the whole "grass greener on the other side" aspect cloud one's greater discernment.

113. I don't understand how Facebook's Libra cryptocurrency can be backed by a basket of legal tender currencies. I understand how currency can be exchanged for another legal tender currency, but I don't understand how private currency can decide to derive its value from separate legal tender or how this could benefit the parties involved in allowing their currency to back something else. Right now, it seems like because most people are willing to exchange their crypto for legal tender currencies anyways, currency issuers are able to rest safely as crypto

would not be competing with them in that scenario. In fact, depending on the demand to exchange crypto for the legal tender currency, such a scenario would actually aid the legal tender currency's value. But when a cryptocurrency is backed by legal tender and basically says that one is entitled to --- this much legal tender for this much crypto-- no matter the value of the cryptocurrency, those invested in the cryptocurrency may decide that its safe to hold onto it..... as opposed to quickly converting it into cash. The current volatility affecting cryptocurrencies aids the legal tender market... since people facing such uncertainties with their crypto(as far as volatility) would want to convert crypto as quickly as possible. Its seems the Libra would change this dynamic and open the door for cryptocurrency to eventually ween itself off of legal tender altogether, much in the way legal tender (when it was backed by gold) was able to ween itself from gold---and due to the same dynamic of people having held onto something long enough to where any change in the underpinning value went unnoticed.

114. China confirms coronavirus can pass human to human

115. Official Infection Count Nears 450 as Outbreak Spreads. Because the only option is to rely on one's immune system to fight the virus, the challenge posed to China by the outbreak would be on maintaining social order and keeping any panic from devolving into social unrest. This outbreak comes in the wake of mass demonstrations against the Chinese government by Hong Kong citizens.

116. The article explains alot of the benefits and drawbacks of wearing a mask. I'm sure there are price controls in China, but I wouldn't be surprised if the price of face masks in other countries rise considerably.

117. Someone as young as 36 is now part of the death toll and the illness has already spread to other countries. An official declaration that this a global emergency should be made by the W.H.O so that enough resources can go into the research that could help find a way to stop virus's permeation

118. Civil unrest is always a concern - which is why there is usually apprehension about raising alarms, however withholding information about the scope and scale of the situation only slows down the process of getting the spread of the illness under control. I do think that once more cases are confirmed in Europe and other places, the W.H.O will finally declare this coronavirus issue a global emergency.

119. Syrian government seems more concerned about territory than they are about civilians. Luckily Russia has relations with both Turkey and

Syria, which could in itself restrain Syria from simply launching gas attacks on both the Hayat Tahrir Al Sham enclaves and Turkish military without concern for the civilian population. Turkey has remained conciliatory with Russia, even though Russian forces have killed Turkish forces in Syria via friendly fire in the past.

120. Coronavirus now more widespread than SARS was in 2002-2003. Intellectual property quarrels could make this worse and end up provoking western researchers into withholding information about cures that could save lives. Chinese researchers applying for patents on American drugs allows the Chinese government to spend less money and thus provide more people in China with adequate treatment. This is a good thing, but it still nonetheless may trigger some sentiments since much of the tariff conflict between the US and China stems from issues regarding how intellectual property should be defined

121.

122. Which rebels are being backed by the Turkish army? The Hayat Tahrir al Sham(HTA) is the only formidable opposition (in Idlib) to the Assad regime. The SDF has been been in correspondence with the Assad regime and has abandoned the resistance. The Syrian Democratic forces(SDF) are made up of many YPG(PKK offshoot) soldiers, so Turkey is definitely not backing them. There is no information on who these Turkish backed rebels are. There was controversy over this same dynamic when the rebels were being aided by the US during the Syrian civil war. There was a major issue with the US backed Syrian rebels allowing much of that aid to end up in the hands of ISIS. Many of the rebels were either negotiating non-aggression with ISIS or joining them.

123. Russia's involvement definitely emboldens Assad and keeps him from having to answer to an international tribunal for his actions.

124. US Convoy Under Attack by Pro-Assad Militia in Northeast Syria

125. For the US to get involved, it would mean they would have to fight against the very people whom they were allied with during the Syrian Civil War,...... the Kurds. Turkey's involvement automatically places the Kurds with Assad in terms of alliance and if the US sides with Turkey against the Kurds, it would continue to raise questions and scrutiny toward US foreign policy. However, even this conundrum doesn't change the dire implication of Assad continuing his operations in Syria. The SDF is made up of not only Kurds, but other Arab militias who may either become pro Assad, or in the more likely sense.. join the HTA against Assad and all foreign presence in Syria, but nonetheless accept aid from Turkey. This is what I am gathering. HTA was originally Al Nusra Front, but broke affiliation with Al Qaeda around 2016 and changed their name. US getting

involved will depend to the scope of Turkey's aid toward the rebels and figuring out exactly where the Kurds stand in all of this. For Israel, the decision is easier because the most of the PLA(Palestinian Liberation Army), formerly the military arm of the PLO(an Israeli designated terror organization), is largely situated in Syria to protect the Assad regime. For Israel, a fortifying of the Assad regime raises the likelihood of a confrontation of between Israel and Syria since Syria has promised to reclaim every inch of Syria, which would include the Golan Heights.

126. The situation is out of control. Raising tensions with Turkey will backfire on Assad. No country is completely free of domestic militant resistance, and in Syria after the US withdrew their troops and after ISIS was defeated, there was no existential threat to Assad's government. He wants to eliminate every ounce of contention without realizing that such a prospect is impossible. He continues to act without regard for human civilian life and is on the verge of being charged with war crimes. Not sure how many more civilians the Syrian government has to kill before the international community says enough is enough.

127. The US will bargain for Turkey to cut ties with Russia and also de-arm themselves of those Russian missiles they currently have. However, I don't believe the US will get too involved because of the Kurdish issue. Not a problem for Turkey since Germany is now the undisputed leader of the EU. Germany, even under military constraints from WWII, can act militarily to defend a NATO ally. Germany is also the number 1 economy in Europe and has the ability to fund any major conflict Of course, this is all if Russia launches offensives against Turkey. Russia will not attack a NATO ally..i don't think. Russia has a lot going for them diplomatically and I would be surprised if they will let Syria cause them to lose all their international diplomatic gains over the past 2-3 years. However, if Russia doesn't convince Assad to de-escalate, there could be some major diplomatic consequences for Russia. The concept of over-reaching doesn't seem to apply in military conflict, but yet it has had an overt significant implication throughout history.

128. Turkey is threatening to allow Syrian refugees go into Europe if NATO doesn't act. Russia could be applying plausible deniability, not sure. Right now, another migrant crisis would challenge the stability of some European countries who have experienced a surge in far right violence. Germany, should they intervene, will attack Russia directly especially if the global markets continue to get pounded over this coronavirus. If Germany takes the lead on this, they will likely dismiss all WWII NATO constraints and apply full military independence and use their monetary reserves for the adequate military spending needed to resolve the Syrian crisis. I think the US could help, but would likely not send troops back to

Syria to fight alongside Turkey and face a situation where they eventually end up fighting against the Kurds after having helped them in the fight against ISIS. Most of Europe has given Germany the green light to build up their military.

129. Syria and Russia's justification is that they need to drive out the terrorists, but killing civilians in the process seems to defeat that purpose. Germany and Belgium have both confronted Russia about the crisis regarding civilian casualties and may end up providing support to Erdogan if Russia and Syria continues to ignore their demands for ceasefire in Idlib.

130. It may have been a bit premature for Erdogan to use coercion to try and get NATO to respond especially with Germany and Belgium already at serious odds with Russia over what is happening in Idlib. Countries don't like to feel they are being coerced into anything and will usually do everything to save face in that regard. I think Erdogan could have lobbied for more military assistance from the EU and NATO without resorting to coercion. Turkey will not be able to withstand an onslaught from both Syria and Russia's forces who will go to any lengths to reclaim territory no matter the cost. Hopefully NATO doesn't allow ego to keep them from providing the necessary aid to Turkey that would help circumvent more civilian casualties. Idlib is now a humanitarian crisis. Its a good sign that the Kurds are also urging the UN to deal with the situation in Idlib, which could lead to the US jumping back into action if the rest of NATO won't help turkey. Of course, the US would have to make clear to all that their help is strictly for helping to mend the situation in Idlib and not for helping Turkey go after the the Kurds

131. Syria alone will not be able to run roughshod over the Turkish army. They would need substantial Russian support. Erdogan seems like a fearless leader who doesn't pull punches and doesn't make supplications. However, there seems to be a great deal of opposition within his own administration regarding Syria. Because of that, talks with Russia could easily pan out a solution to the Syria/Turkey conflict. They key issues for Russia during such talks would be Turkey's ties to the Syrian rebel groups and the HTA, and for Turkey, the key issue during the talks would be Syria's ties to YPG/PKK. There would have to be some promises made by each side to cut their ties to the respective groups, which is not as easy as it sounds. But judging from the internal conflict within the Turkish administration, Erdogan may likely be advised to compromise in this regard. I doubt he will listen, he seems intent to using force to keep Syria in check, and not diplomacy. If Syria is not careful, a red line could get crossed and lead to a full on Turkish invasion regardless of Russia's presence.

132. Erdogan's main objective has always been to get the Kurds as far away from Turkey as possible. He could also be doing this to put more pressure on both NATO and the US to side with Turkey. I think he wants the push the Kurds out of Syria and into Iraq or anywhere where they would not be welcomed. If Syria and Russia will agree on that point, then Turkey will likely be willing to compromise with Syria and Russia.

133. Many of those countries are largely unaware of the entire scope and scale of the black situation in the US....the self-perpetuated harboring of violent behavior and the huge disproportion between the number of blacks in this country and their share in contributing to the overall violent homicide rate. Its astronomical. If we don't take a page from the liberals and start applying humility in conjunction with the B L M movement, those numbers will continue to get worse and just further generate the fear of blacks that is getting many of us killed. However, even with that, its probably too late. Those countries you mentioned don't have the burden of dealing with us blacks day in and day out, so of course their outlook is able to manifest a certain amount of positivity. Even many black supporters of BLM have little contact/awareness of the black situation. Of course racism is more widespread now, but anything can come to exist if its encouraged. There is no point in stopping BLM now. We've already crossed the rubicon with all this tribalism. Racism is no longer a term. At this point, you're either a realist or you're not.

134. The previous President may have been encouraged to lend a bit too much support to Black Lives Matter than he would have liked. (Obama veered away from any overt ethnocentricity for most of his tenure.) When that blm movement first started, much of the rhetoric that came from it was not just a polemic that singled out white police, but also one that blamed whites all over the country. I remember when it first started, even democrats were taken aback by it which is why many of them also supported All Lives Matter initially. This gave Trump a platform for people to rally around. Of course, police brutality was certainly an issue, but the racial connotation it was given at that time was bit excessive in my opinion. This alienated alot of Americans from black people over time. Obviously, there needed to be something peaceful to address police brutality in general. Unfortunately, all there was for that was an ethnocentric movement. As a result of that, one can say that racism does exist now....of course it would if one fosters it long enough. Now, with this second wave and with many of the same fringe elements....looting vandalism etc, the division is complete. The violent separatists of all types support BLM, making it to where blacks have no choice but to fall in line, or else. That's unfortunate. I hope people realize we're in a different paradigm now. Blacks can no longer be pro-American even if they wanted

to. Blacks have no choice but to own their blackness. The democratic support that the BLM movement gained when Trump was in office- in my opinion- was in response to some risky foreign policy moves by his administration. NK, Iran, etc. Right now, the left cannot stomach the potential of another war on foreign soil on possibly false pretenses, and because of that there is a lot of distrust. So the obvious response is to keep America focused on domestic issues.....creating some if necessary. Remember, the War in Iraq was a very tragic mistake. Many American democrats are still shaken up by it, and rightly so.

135. Get a load of these videos of looting and unrest in the City of Brotherly Love...This isn't going to stop anytime soon. The blacks feel justified and this justification is being encouraged. I can even gather that some Americans might be getting a slight kick out of us blacks making an animalistic fool of ourselves. Since BLM always seems to devolve into animalism, its all the more likely that the movement will continue to gain support even from its detractors...just so that our animalism can be on full display for all to see.....with echoes of "duh" being emitted loudly from the graves of America's forefathers.

136. Good to see Biden calling for the country to come together. Hopefully moderate politics makes a comeback under his administration. During the last 4 years, the democrats did a good job in trying to balance out the more extreme qualities of Trump. Even BLM--before this recent wave of protests--was somewhat quiet during much of Trump's administration. I credit the heavy pressure that the democrats applied on the trump administration policy for this. The public posture of urgency by democratic officials did have somewhat of a pacifying effect on minority communities. Some even felt safe enough to support the Trump administration outrightly. Many more even voted for him in this election compared to the previous one in 2016. The last 4 years could have been much worse when you think about. What if the democrats just decided to simply stay quiet? My concern was the difficulty that would arise for the democrats when it came to correctly timing exactly when to step on the brakes. However, we can see Biden began to take on a more conciliatory tone and may apply this to the last few months of Trumps tenure in order to salvage what he can in terms of gathering some republican support.

137. Syria is in a precarious position. Israel has been striking Iranian targets in Syria for years now. While Syria is trying to stay out of this aggression, it would only take some nudging from Iran for Syria to completely defend all of its airspace. Syria has high powered Russian anti-aircraft at its disposal and if the Iranians should, in some unfortunate scenario, gain access to the weapons, it could lead to escalation between Syria/Iran/Russia and Israel/US/Turkey

138. Its hard to place David Duke into the historical framework of the KKK's violent past. He actually attempted to remove the element of violence from the white nationalist agenda, which alienated him from the more radical members of the KKK. His idea was to use non-violent means to address European-American issues, an antithetical approach to the traditional revolutionary model used by the KKK. In the more recent past, his tone has changed into a more Anti-Zionist perspective. This issue is where the democrats showed a lot of ignorance early during the Trump administration. They repeatedly charged Trump with being allies with David Duke, all while ignoring the 40 or so times Trump disavowed David Duke and the alt-right(there's video of trump repeatedly disavowing them). Even Trump's obvious pro-Israel agenda--which is a complete and unforgivable U-turn from the contemporary ideologies of White nationalism--didn't sway the left in backing off on that issue. Trump even extended his hand to BLM after the Dallas mass shooting of police officers. Obviously Trump has ended his 4-year term decidedly pro-white(anyone can be provoked into ethnocentrism), but did not start out that way publicly. Early on, his distinction between himself and the rest of the world was strictly kept to how nationality is defined within geographical borders--not how its defined in terms of ethnicity. Also I want to point out that i don't consider a minority who is decidedly/blindly ethnocentric to be the true progressive that Biden or Michael Moore is. And when I say left, i speak of the ethnocentrics and not the real progressives.

139. Top Iranian nuclear scientist assassinated. Things are getting nasty. This is a dangerous containment strategy. Aggression only further exacerbates Iran's urgency for nuclear weapons. Sad, its come to this--assassinating non-combatants. Israel, even when Khomeini came to power in the late 70s, remained open to better relations with Iran. However, those days are over. After years of repeated death threats from Iran, Israel is now on the brink of a direct conflict with Iran. Nuclear deterrence is not that easy. Technically any country that fuels its power grid on nuclear energy has the capability of enriching its Uranium by either extracting the necessary amount of U-235 or extracting Plutonium 239 after Uranium 239 beta decays. The knowledge to produce a nuclear bomb is as readily available as harry potter. Where do you draw the line?

140. This is not good. This sets a new precedent in global conflict, where it becomes lawful for non-combatants to be targeted for murder by state-sponsored agencies, even within conflicts where the countries are not officially at war. The scariest thing is that domestic dissidents now have an angle that would provide them plausible deniability if they should decide to orchestrate an event in which these state-sponsored agencies can be designated the scapegoat. Public sentiment is at the moment heavily

steered away from trusting these agencies as being in the best interest of the public. This is mainly due to propaganda that villainizes them. This assassination just further exacerbates the lack of trust and opens a Pandora's box. The UN needs to lay down some rules fast before this gets out of hand.

141. Before COVID-19, the open borders paradigm set by the left was so strong that if Trump did apply the necessary decisiveness to close the borders in response, it would have been met with such strong hostility that the dynamics of how COVID-19 was interpreted by each side of the political spectrum in 2020 would have ended up being the total opposite--where the left would be downplaying the seriousness of it and the right conveying the sense of urgency regarding it.

142. Illnesses can be cured by preventing it with a vaccine or treating it with medication. Both are rarely 100% effective. Flu is caused by either influenza viruses or coronaviruses. Influenza viruses and Coronaviruses have been known(even before 2019) to cause flu in the US and around the world. There has never been any substantial preventative or treatment protocol to effectively eradicate the causes of the flu. Flu vaccines are only 67% effective(that is not eradication). Small pox and polio vaccines are 95%-100% effective(that is closer to eradication). If influenza virus vaccines have not come close to that 100% success rate ever, how can another vaccine for a virus that causes the same flu effect all of a sudden exceed that.

143. The Taliban's complicity in 9/11 was garnered from the fact that they would not hand over Osama Bin Laden to the US authorities to be charged for his role in the 9/11 terror attacks. They deemed it was against their policy to hand over someone who was a guest in their country. Osama had been kicked out of Saudi Arabia and Sudan.

144. The complexities of the middle east conflict presents scenarios such as this where two sides are fighting alongside each other against a common enemy. This is similar to how the Iran-backed Mahdi army and Al Qaeda of Iraq were fighting together against the US invasion of Iraq. There was no link connecting the Iran -backed Mahdi army group with the Al Qaeda of Iraq militants even though both were launching attacks against US forces. As a result, the Mahdi army was never designated as a terror group by the UN(Al Qaeda is a UN designated terrorist group). Another example are the US-backed forces in Syria who were fighting against Assad and who allowed US weapons to get into the hands of ISIS fighters who were also fighting against Assad. Its complicated mess over there. But groups have to be careful because any evidence of coordination with a UN designated terror group automatically inserts that group as a terror

affiliate. Its a deadly program since anyone on that UN designated terror list garners no entitlement to human rights or war policy protections, hence the continuous and ruthless US drone program deployed over there to go after any and all terrorist operatives and links.

145. US needs to figure out foreign policy. Obviously, you don't want to support regimes that carry out terror on their own people, but don't make the situation worse. Syria was utter failure for the US. Not only did Assad stay in power, but countless people loss their lives as a result of US instigating civil war and unrest over there. There is a way to enact deterrence on despots and tyrannical or brutal leaders without having to put the inhabitants there in a perilous situation. We did the same in Libya and now that place is nothing but a training ground for militants. Let the leaders who violate human rights face a UN tribunal or something. Don't make everyone suffer by turning the country into a war zone of human atrocity. That seems counter intuitive to actually trying to help. Half the time the soldiers don't even know why they're fighting. US needs to sit down and draw up a foreign policy that at the very least makes some sort of sense and one that keeps civilians in mind. If they're just too ruthless to do it for the sake of civilians, then at least do it for the morale of the soldiers. With Biden in office, the public is likely going to go back to sleep on foreign policy. This makes it all the more urgent for the US to get its act together on the situation in the middle east, if they decide to stay involved over there.

146. Explosions reported in Syria's Masyaf after Israeli jets fly over Beirut. This feels as if it will go on forever. There is no deterring Iran and they're steadily gaining more international support. I believe they are aware of this, and will simply continue to incite Israel with hostile maneuvers as a result, making Israel look like the aggressor. The same is happening in Gaza, where militants are firing at Israel to provoke an Israeli response and thus garner more international support. Right now, its about funding and greater support, so Israel defense has to be careful especially the Mossad. However, I do credit Israel for not allowing incoming rockets to hit civilians. So many governments have sacrificed their own people just to get support for a military excursion, and I think Israel does well in not following that example.

147. ISIS recruiting platform is its strongest asset. ISIS will forever be a residual effect of the war in Iraq. The majority of them now are Saddam loyalists and will not stop until they regain--at the very least--Iraq. The US tried to mend the blowback from the war in Iraq by advising the now mostly Shiite Iraq government to accommodate the Sunni minority. However, many of the Sunnis decided to choose the militant path. The US will have to decide their policy because if they continue a hard-line stance

against Iran and Syria, they will find themselves unwittingly aiding the ISIS cause. If they vehemently oppose ISIS, then the US would have to let go of some of their anti-Assad, anti-Iran policy. This obviously defeats the whole purpose of their last 6 years over there, but would drastically lower the odds of anymore ISIS resurgences. Its a very precarious situation over there in the middle east with no cut and dry solution

148. Sad to see Trump inciting violence as his tenure comes to an end. Brings back those unsettling feelings I had in 2016-2017 when many prominent figures were publicly calling for Trump's assassination after he won the 2016 election fairly. I'm hoping republicans take the high road and call for peace and distance themselves from Trump.

149. It's in the US constitution that freedom of speech can be regulated if it presents clear and present danger

150. ISIS has had plenty of time to become more efficient at evading air-strikes. There is no way to eliminate the small pockets of ISIS operatives without going troops on the ground. Thanks to the war in Iraq, ISIS will easily be able to continue finding sympathizers to aid their cause. Luckily, their early links to Al Qaeda of Iraq automatically designated them an international terror organization, otherwise they would have no trouble convincing potential recruits that they are freedom fighters. A lot is riding on how Iraq embraces the Sunni minority since their level of acceptance of the new regime is key to mitigating the chances of disillusionment and alienation which causes people to seek out and court those radical outsider groups looking for new members.

151. Syrian Ex-Officer Is Convicted in First Trial of Assad Regime Torture. This will serve as a deterring factor for any government looking to abuse their power, but at the same time embolden protesters around the world to push the envelope. The Obama administration's decision to aid dissent and violent escalation in Syria and Libya only sets a precedent that might apprehend the US from fully being able to put down uprisings in their own country ...due to a fear that over-aggression on the part of the state might allow opposition to garner foreign support. Protesters become emboldened when they know foreign support would be available

152. I think crypto somewhat fosters the demand for fiat. Liquidity prospects are a huge factor behind the rising cryptocurrency market. The US knows that if they simply outlawed crypto, some other nation's currency would subsequently rise in demand upon filling that space. However, crypto could never outpace the demand for oil, which is the foundation of dollar dominance. You've mentioned it before--most of the world's oil being denominated in USD is the prime metric for gauging the

dollar's line-of-life. Hence why the US will never dare insult the crown prince, who can at the drop of a hat sell the oil for something else other than USD--a prospect that would leave the dollar worthless and essentially cause the US to immediately go into default.

153. Assad regime carried out war crimes, but the US is responsible for escalating the situation over there-- making the problem worse and then on top of that, abandoning the situation, leaving those they agreed to help at the mercy of Assad. The US has no principles whatsoever when it comes to Mid east policy.

154. Had the US taken that into account from the start, there would be less casualties in Syria. Assad would have carried out aggression, but much less because there would not have been a civil war. The US has a tendency to act first and think later. Both the Bush and Obama administration proves why presidents should never listen to generals. Remember most people join the military so they can kill without having to go to prison. That's a fact

155. A key element in warfare is securing the oil and gas fields. Once an army loses access to the oil supplies, it becomes near impossible for them to power their military equipment--logistical or otherwise. Since the Middle East is a treasure trove of oil, it becomes much more difficult--especially over there--to fully neutralize any enemy since the enemy will eventually find a way to access the much needed fuels. ISIS's propaganda machine continuously allows them to recruit new members. The unjustified war in Iraq is problematic in this regard. As a result, someone has to reach out to the Sunni minority in Iraq in order to cut off ISIS's reinforcement valve. The more the Sunnis become alienated in Iraq, the more likely it will be that they consider doing Jihad to avenge the war in Iraq

156. What Iran is doing in Syria is similar to what the Wahhabis did in the late 90's in Afghanistan and Northern Pakistan: Set up an anti-western indoctrination system much like the Sunni madrassas that were set up in Pakistan and Afghanistan before 9/11. Iran refuses to let go of their death to US/death to Israel ideology which will continue to fuel conflict in the region. Its believed by many Sunnis that the Shiite Iman is weak. Iran's moves will certainly effect how Saudi Arabia handles its own foreign policy.

157. Assad regime attack on hospital kills 7 civilians in Syria's Idlib

158. At least the US and Israel somewhat concedes to the international pressure that is trying to get armed forces to reduce civilian casualties.

The Syrian regime armed forces just flat out seems to ignore it all. These nations cannot figure out how to locate and neutralize the remaining pockets of enemy fighters without taking down civilians in the process. We've always lived in a paradigm for governments to uphold the societal construct over the idea of human rights.

159. At the same time, how far is opposition to Assad allowed to go as far what they feel needs to be done to remove him from power? How hypocritical would it be for a nation to march into Syria against the Syrian army for the sake of removing Assad, only to discover that they themselves are now engaging in the same brutal tactics that imperil civilians -- tactics that they themselves previously lobbied against. Now all of a sudden, the end justifies the means? There are so many state actors in the middle east that will never be tried and convicted for war crimes. Oftentimes, there isn't much one can do except get the conflict to settle down, get the situation stabilized, and allow history to remember what happened so that it doesn't get repeated. Its a horrible situation in Syria, but making the wrong move in attempting to alter the scenario could exacerbate the very thing one is trying to stop. In fact, it already has. The only effective deterrent that seems to keep these aggressive leaders in check is continued international exposure. I believe it does have a deterring effect on policy and decision making. This exposure has to come from and be cited from an international body.... or an objective source. Because of their over-involvement and mistakes in the Middle East, the US has lost a lot of their pedigree as far as being able to expose these injustices. In fact, people are more likely to disbelieve the US on Mid-east issues because of the whole war in Iraq. So in this regard, they have to be careful in their approach because any charges they bring on state actors in the middle east could work against their own purposes in rooting out and correcting injustices.

160. The terror situation in sub-Saharan Africa is far worse than in the middle east. The extended network of ISIS -- Al Shabab(east Africa) and Boko Haram(west Africa) are operating at much more sadistic level. And the indiscriminate US drone program over there didn't exactly deter membership to such groups.

161. There is no way for an outside force to adopt a humanitarian strategy in Syria and at the same time, push forward with an overthrow agenda there. History shows that embarking on this overthrow strategy--especially as an outside force--only serves to strengthen the ties between the tyrannical leader and the people he governs. This is the case with NK, Iran, Cuba, etc. These regimes have only grown stronger as a result of the outside antagonism. The only feasible option is through empowering a rebel force from within, but the drawback of this plan is obviously catastrophic for the inhabitants. Libya, Syria, Chile(overthrow of Allende

government).....all of these have led to severe human catastrophes and unnecessary loss of life. Obviously Israel has to be concerned about any intent by Syria to reclaim the Golan Heights. We don't know how much Iran has offered Syria as far as support goes for such an operation., but we do know that Hezbollah militants and Palestinian fighters(ex-PLA) are working with the Syrian army in Syria. In fact, Iran is smuggling arms to Hezbollah operatives in Syria for transport to Houthi fighters in Yemen. Turkey at some point is going to address both US/Israel's lack of respect for their policy on the Kurds/Ypg, whom Turkey has designated as a terrorist organization. Lebanon, I think, is keen on not seeking a war with Israel, but their smuggling operations linked to Iranian arms is of obvious concern. Nations are always trying to improve their strategic positioning, even if they have no desire to make war. I think its always important to recognize --when looking at the Middle east situation-- that Iran has a death to Israel policy, not exactly an outlook of peace.

162. One lesson that can be learned is "Nations should never declare to export their revolution" Communist Revolution - declared worldwide by Stalin - led to cold war and fall of USSR Iranian Revolution - declared worldwide by Khomeini - led to tensions with Israel and US and economic constraints War on terror - declared worldwide by the US - invaded Iraq without sufficient cause(killed civilians) and led to a loss of trust and loss of moral standing/reputation. ISIS caliphate - declared worldwide by ISIS - rampant terror attacks against civilians throughout the middle east, Africa, and the rest of the world.

163. OPCW is usually pretty reliable on inspection. Same organization that investigated Saddam's Iraq for weapons of mass destruction and found nothing. Its pretty clear that Syria launched chemical attacks against civilians. However, ISIS's presence and simultaneous use of chemical weapons against civilians allows for Syria to apply plausible deniability.

164. Its obvious the gas fields are the main modus operandi of ISIS right now. Those areas in Syria should be on high alert. ISIS is operating underground and conducting surprise ambushes on regime soldiers. And its only small number of ISIS militants pulling off these attacks. This prolonged conflict is setting the stage for a new type of warfare: Subterranean warfare. Its obvious that the even larger powers have no real answer on how to battle underground forces. This type of warfare has been effective for centuries. Back during the Arab invasions in the 7th century, monks found that they could successfully evade Arab forces. Back in WWII, the Japanese were effective in building underground fortification, and so were the Chinese. The Vietnamese during the Vietnam war was possibly the best example of how effective underground fortifications are against air power. Many of the larger powers really have

no answer for this type of defense. What ISIS is doing is bringing notice to it. Most nations in the middle east already have these underground structures in place and will only be emboldened against the stronger nations the longer ISIS is able to survive by simply making underground tunnels. Israel and the US are working on technology that will allow them to detect these underground tunnels, and if they are successful then we may see end to the prolonged conflict in the Middle East. If not, then we can expect that everyone there will pursue self determination without regard for another country's superior airpower.

165. Boko Harams leader blows himself up when cornered by ISIS rivals. Wow, too radical for ISIS?? The Middle East is a refuge when compared to many areas of West Africa. Just think about that for a moment. ISIS is taken aback by another's terrorism. This person forced women and children to be suicide bombers. and kidnapped hundreds of school girls and likely put them on the sex trafficking market. Blacks deflect constantly from this issue of savagery plaguing our race. This issue has to be confronted sooner or later, otherwise we are going to have a hard time convincing people that we are human, and an even harder time surviving in our own habitat should we end up back in some form of segregation

166. IDF in response is targeting Hamas weapons storage sites in Gaza, which are located in civilian buildings. Both Palestinians and Israelis have been killed during this escalation. Since Monday, 600+ rockets fired from Gaza into Israel.

167. Hamas has been placed on a moral equivalency with Israel, or may even have the moral high ground thanks in large part to western media and sentiment. Israel might end up cutting ties with the US as a result. Saudi Arabia may do the same in order to avoid similar hazards of being in alliance with the US. The US economy would then collapse right before our eyes.

168. Neither side of this conflict gives any concern about civilians. Hamas, however, is clearly applying a calculated strategy of provocation, launching a few rockets at Israeli civilians here and there-- provoking Israeli retaliation--hoping for Palestinian casualties in the process and then simply using that as justification to launch even more rockets at Israeli civilians. The international community ignores this aspect and puts all the pressure on Israel to advance their precision capabilities in order to defend their civilian population and also neutralize the threat of deadly rocket attacks from militants in Gaza--all without endangering the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza. On the other hand, militants in Gaza are under no pressure to de-escalate, stop firing rockets at Israeli civilians, and start distributing aid to Palestinians, hence why this conflict

keeps going. Keep in mind that Hamas wants to remove the entire Jewish population from Israel altogether and anyone who does not agree with that is their enemy. Jews are not going to pack up and leave Israel anymore than Europeans are going to pack up and leave America.

169. Hamas has inadvertently gained considerable propaganda points and has risen to a moral equivalency with Israel.... at least according to the way international outrage singles out Israel as the aggressor. I would be surprised if Hamas agrees to a ceasefire with this much momentum on their side. The state of Israel is in serious jeopardy now. With the west demanding removal of US support from Israel, Hamas and Iran has a golden opportunity to shift the tide of this ongoing war. The residual effect of this will also translate to a shift in the way the world perceives ISIS, which may allow them to gain new life. You may also see separatist groups in the US began to claim land in the name of fighting an occupation.

170. Palestinian support for Hamas surges!! United States/western media is now the propaganda arm for Hamas. Israel will certainly cut ties very soon. Followed by Saudi Arabia. US economy will then collapse. Wow!

171. 49.2% in the US have been fully vaccinated. 56% have only been partially vaccinated. It seems in many states, the partially vaccinated are being classified with the unvaccinated as far as percentage of Covid-related fatalities. A number of sources from different local counties have stated that 99% of COVID fatalities were among unvaccinated and partially vaccinated. It would be nice if these local counties could distinguish the number of fatality cases of unvaccinated from the number of fatality cases of partially vaccinated. (partially vaccinated is suppose to provide a great deal of protection) Its even more confusing when the national media takes that information and states that that 99% of COVID fatalities are unvaccinated.

172. In El Paso, 23% of the COVID deaths since July 8th were in fully vaccinated. They didn't disclose information on the age/conditions of the unvaccinated/partially vaccinated deaths--whether or not they too were over 50 or had underlying conditions. Would have been good to know. Not sure why they couldn't just give us info on the other 23 COVID fatalities. Everyone needs to safeguard right now, that is for certain. The CDC said that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a face mask or stay 6 feet away from others in most settings, whether outdoors or indoors. Would these vaccinated who died still be alive if they followed the safeguard measures?

173. The data does show that even during the massive delta surge, vaccination will cut the risk of death from COVID-19. The percentage of

breakthrough deaths are somewhat elevated in Massachusetts, but remain low in Oregon, Illinois, New Hampshire, Nebraska, and Minnesota. Texas and Louisiana have not updated the number of breakthrough death cases. Florida is not reporting breakthrough deaths at all.

174. Taliban victory means reinstitution of madrassas in Afghanistan. Shiite states like Syria, Iraq, and Iran will have to be on guard now.

175. US foreign policy has been so disastrous that there is no way they will be able to maintain an alliance with Saudi Arabia. Reason being is that the far left in the west will no longer support US intervention in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia is still in a proxy war with Iran over Yemen and a big part of supporting Saudi Arabia requires supporting Sunni hegemony in the Middle East. If the US does not offer enough support toward Saudi Arabia's security, the Saudis will began to look elsewhere for alliance. A major part of our economic sustenance is our deal with Saudi Arabia--Saudi Arabia sells oil for US dollars. In exchange, US provides military support to them when necessary. Failure to own up to their end will result in Saudi Arabia looking else where and selling their oil for something else other than USD. Saudi Arabia is so powerful, it is scary. Fracking has failed in the US and the UK. And this ultimately brings power back to the middle east when it comes to oil.

176. Louisiana just reported 100 breakthrough deaths of fully vaccinated individuals. Only 9% of those who died of COVID-19 between July 7, 2021 and August 16, 2021 were fully vaccinated

177. India will more than likely take in most of those refugees as they have in the past. US operations in Afghanistan was for the sole reason of capturing or killing Osama Bin Laden. Taliban was just an obstacle. Getting around that obstacle meant by default aiding the Northern Alliance. US did what they wanted to do and began withdrawing troops. They had no real concern about ongoing the geopolitical issues there or the residual effects of their invasion. They just wanted Osama Bin Laden.

178. ISIS Terror Attacks Now A Threat to Americans Stranded in Afghanistan. This is horrible. So many people there had their faith in American/Afghan security apparatus. But unfortunately it collapsed pretty much overnight right before their eyes and now they are facing a perilous situation. ISIS is going to resurge and Americans there could face severe reprisals for their association with the American military. However, I think the international media can help by paying very close attention to what transpires as the attention may deter the Taliban from giving off a barbaric impression. The Taliban has more to gain by focusing on rebuilding their infrastructure and gaining allies in the process as

opposed to carrying out widespread violent retribution. And I am certain that if this is the Taliban's outlook, they will also advise both ISIS and Al Qaeda to deal with the situation carefully. The US needs to be very concerned about their relations with Saudi Arabia and Israel. US policy in the Middle East in the last few years is not going to go unnoticed by their allies. Saudi Arabia's security has been compromised a few times by Shiite militants in Yemen and at some point, the Saudis are going to expect more help from the US regarding Yemen. Israel has to be concerned about US propaganda painting Israel as the sole aggressor of the Palestinian conflict. While Israel does carry out deadly attacks that injure and kill civilians, the western media has done a poor job at pointing out Hamas's role in perpetuating the conflict with rocket attacks aimed directly for civilians and without reservation.

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181. I am not sure of the threshold, but after a certain percentage of the population gets vaccinated(at least with the COVID-19 vaccine), the rest of the unvaccinated become more vulnerable to the dominant strain. The only choices left for the unvaccinated are: 1. get vaccinated 2. get as far away from the vaccinated as possible 3. get sick and die. The first option seems easier. Some people maybe able to apply the second option. Now

from a societal standpoint, it is definitely not simple and I don't think most Americans will follow such a protocol for very long. And I am also not sure how these institutions will carry out vaccine mandates when vaccine efficacy wanes after a few months. Is that going to be factored in on the vaccine passes? Will the vaccine passes have a expiration date? Many haven't adjusted to the fact that the vaccine is not a 1 shot deal and because of this, some people may deem themselves protected even years after they took the jab.

182. ISIS caliphate is still in effect and it could lead to a power struggle/trust issues with the Taliban. The Taliban is nation building right now, and the last thing they need are suicide bombers running rampant all over the country. I am not sure if they articulated this to ISIS. The Taliban will provide refuge for ISIS and Al Qaeda, but if these groups start embarking on a string of attacks in and around the country, the Taliban may start to lose patience. Keep in mind, there are still Massoud loyalists in Afghanistan who will continue to oppose the Taliban and escalate further an already tense situation. They may also scapegoat the Taliban for any attacks carried out by ISIS, irrespective of Taliban involvement. There are 2 things that work in the Taliban's favor right now: 1. Multiple countries are reaching out to them. 2. Far left 9/11 conspiracy theorists who believe Osama Bin Laden had nothing to do with the 9/11 terrorist attack.

183. White House warns of terrorist attack from ISIS-K. It was chilling to hear him say without reservation that some of those on the terror watchlist slipped right into the US from the southern border. I remember a while back that 2 Houthi militants were captured after crossing into the US from Mexico. It just goes to show how vulnerable the US is right now. ISIS inspired attacks have been an issue in the US for some time now. However, if the US extends its hand to the Taliban, an attack directly linked to ISIS-k could manifest on US soil. I don't think it would be as sophisticated as the 9/11 attack, but it could be just as devastating i.e. a bombing or mass casualty event. ISIS is not the only terror threat to the US. All violent separatist groups are inspired by the Taliban and right now you have a situation in the US where people are divided by race, but not by land. Keep in mind if one is going to divide the people, then one also has to divide the land. Only the former is being achieved at the moment. So in all inevitability, it will be the separatist groups who are going to ensure the latter. Reading history, one can easily observe that it only takes a small number of this element to drastically alter the landscape. Majority sentiment is futile against this force. There are only 2 choices for Americans. Either call the country back together(probably not possible at this point) or face serious national security ramifications. Ethnic European separatists don't believe in this cohesion of different races.

Central American separatists believe that this land is their original habitat. The black separatists believe that all of the land is in the name of Europeans, which leaves the blacks with basically nothing except a humiliating past of slavery and Jim Crow. All these groups have convincing platforms to recruit. It's only a matter of time before this explodes.

184. ISIS, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham gaining strength in Syria. Difference between HTA and ISIS is that ISIS is operating on declared caliphate, while HTA is largely opposed to foreign influence in Syria, namely the Russians. Some of the Assad rebels who fought in the Syrian civil war are now working for Erdogan as mercenaries in Libya. Subterranean warfare is really the problem in Syria. ISIS was able to lay siege to large swaths of territory in Iraq and Syria back in 2014 using those tactics. Clearly, airstrikes are not the answer since ISIS is still operating today even after Russian and US ariel intervention. Now, ISIS is using the subterranean warfare to access critical oil and gas reserves. There is no military solution in Syria. I agree that the UN has to support a pro-Syrian agenda focused on getting aid into the country. Easier said than done, however. Assad still has to work out tensions with Turkey; tensions which stem from Assad providing refuge to the Kurds and YPG militants, an offshoot of the PKK.

185. ISIS-K claims responsibility for Kunduz mosque blast killing at least 55. ISIS-K is strikingly similar to Wahhabism in that their violence is based on extreme fundamentalism, where any deviation(even the most minute) from the most strict application of Sharia law is considered haram and punishable by death. This is exactly ISIS-k's grievance with the Taliban. Notwithstanding, there are still other factions like the Massoud loyalists who are vying for control over Afghanistan. So, the region is still quite far from attaining any measure of stability in the near future. ISIS-k is attempting to take control by inciting sectarian violence; bombing the Shias and inciting them to attack Sunnis. This would further destabilize Taliban control. However, the presence of other factions(like the Massoud loyalists) interested in gaining control of Afghanistan complicates the matter. This is similar to what went on in Syria with ISIS and the Anti-Assad rebels. The same dynamic occurred in Iraq with Al Qaeda and the Mahdi Army.

186. ISIS plot to blow up Northern Virginia shopping malls. Shopping malls and places where people gather in large quantities are a prime threat. However, ISIS is not the only threat. America still has to contend with separatist groups who are seeking identity and land. One cannot sustain a divided country without dividing the land. And these identity groups have a similar mindset as ISIS, which is basically an outlook that sees terror as nothing more than a tool in which the end would justify the

means. In fact, they only see terror as a critical component needed for building a nation since most established nations have origins in small groups of people who went out and orchestrated terrorist acts. Hopefully America learns its lesson: You don't help cultivate division and chaos just to make a sitting president look bad. Why? Because division eventually turns into sectarianism, which leads to separatism, which leads to territorial disputes, and then finally violent conflict. It doesn't happen overnight, but once it gets moving, it only gains momentum. Foreign terrorist organization like ISIS-k or any entities hostile to the US for that matter will be more than willing to aid and abet the operations of sectarian groups originating in the United States, emboldening them to plot against the state. In fact, many are already here, slipping undetected through the Mexican/US border. America is already a humiliated country and they are not helping the Taliban. So, they may not be as critical of a target for ISIS-k. Foreign-based terror attacks are usually rooted in occupation issues. 9/11 was based largely on that; Egypt and many other Arab countries were against US intervention in Kuwait back in the early 90s. Yet the US insisted their troops be stationed in Saudi Arabia, which is considered Holy Land by the Arabs. This among other factors was used by Al-Qaeda to justify 9/11.

187. Powerful Iranian general visited Iraq after assassination attempt on PM. Seems odd that Shiite controlled Iraq would meet hostility from a Shiite country like Iran. Iran backed militias have been known to target areas where US coalition troops are gathered, but not areas where Iraqi officials are. This drone strike was at the Iraqi PM's home. It only a few months ago that PM Kadhemi strongly condemned US strikes on Iran-backed militias in Iraq, so I am not sure why he would be targeted by Iran-backed militias. There must be some other entity besides Iran that would not only consider Kadhemi a grave concern, but would also have the capability of employing a drone strike on his home.

188. Our economy was more deflationary before 1913 when Woodrow Wilson signed the Federal Reserve act. The downside to a deflationary prone economy is obviously the higher likelihood of bank runs and financial panics, which were numerous before 1913. When the market decides interest rates, the seasonal demand for credit stresses the bank's reserves and strains their ability to respond to unforeseen market disturbances. This is why the Fed was created in the first place. And they were highly efficient at managing the economy when the dollar was still backed by gold. The first panic didn't occur until 1929, when the stock market crashed. It was not until we left the Bretton woods system that inflation became a near mainstay for US economics.

189. Keep an eye on this: U.S. Tries to Convince Arab Allies It Isn't

Abandoning Them. We do not know if Saudi Arabia or Israel is planning to cut ties with the US. If they are and it's announced unexpectedly, a free-fall of the US economy will ensue, further exacerbated by the games the Fed is playing with inflation. The dollar will collapse and the United States will become a third world country overnight. Businesses will no longer accept cash.

190. I'm not sure why the gun charge was dropped. In Wisconsin, it's illegal for anyone under 18 to carry firearms, unless they have a hunting permit, of which in that case, being over the age of 12 would permit them to carry. I don't believe that Rittenhouse could argue that he was en-route to a hunting trip when he stumbled across the protests. I would have presumed that because he was carrying a firearm illegally, he would have at least faced misdemeanor possession and subsequently reckless endangerment. Now, I have been at a black lives matter riot. I've seen firsthand the destruction, the looting, and the burning of businesses. Sure, one can say the anger is understandable because of systemic racism, but how many people will indefinitely volunteer to be the recipient of that anger? How many of you will volunteer to face the wrath because of what your ancestors did? How much blame are individual businesses allowed to shoulder? So I can apprehend it being true that many of the armed men at the Kenosha protests or any protests for that matter do feel somewhat compelled to protect businesses, even in light of the fact that many of them are also attracted to the violence and chaos, much like Rittenhouse was. The first man, Rosenbaum, was certainly instigating that night. Witnesses have observed him yelling death threats to various armed men, threatening to kill them if he caught any of them alone. And when Rittenhouse broke from the group of militia men, Rosenbaum surely did charge after him. Now Wisconsin doesn't uphold stand your ground laws, and from the video, Rittenhouse made every attempt to retreat. One has to ask if eyewitness accounts of Rosenbaum's threats--combined with his initial actions falling in line with trying to make good on those threats--allows one to believe that Rittenhouse was justified in fearing significant harm from Rosenbaum. But it does not end there, protesters observe an unarmed man(Rosenbaum) get shot and killed by an armed Rittenhouse and subsequently chase after Rittenhouse. Rittenhouse is clearly on the retreat, and one of those pursuing him is carrying a handgun. It is possible, to my knowledge, that the second and third person shot by Rittenhouse were simply acting on their first observation of an unarmed man being shot, responding to it albeit unaware of those other factors involved. And in light of this, Rittenhouse could in no way have conceded that the mob was simply intending to dis-arm him. So in taking into account the fact that Rittenhouse was carrying illegally, but under attack from someone who threaten to kill him, and chased by protesters who maybe misapprehended the situation makes me believe that Rittenhouse

should have, and perhaps at most, been charged with some form of reckless endangerment and misdemeanor gun possession. Much of the theme and social outrage behind this trial is premised on the fact that if Rittenhouse were black, he would have been charged with murder without reservation, or perhaps shot by police on site. And I think many will agree on those points, but in the fight against systemic racism, the solution should not be an attempt at applying an unjust application of the law on white people, but to make clear that urgency needs to be continuously aimed at implementing a just application of justice and law for everyone no matter what race one is. People in this country have become so bloodthirsty, unwilling to see the other's point of view, that many are just cherry-picking things to justify going out buying a gun, robbing a store, burning a business, killing someone, carrying out a terrorist attack.

191. In Chapter 12 of "The Nietzsche Paradigm", the author tries to define, mold, doctrinize, and preserve for perhaps a later date, an era in America that was defined by an attempt to achieve its version of meritocracy. Of course, people will say that such was never the case in America and that slavery and Jim crow was always fully in effect. This is why the book tries to convey that paradigms are what you strive for, not something you present yourself to be the epitome of. And the era between Nixon and Obama was largely a steady, but perhaps slow climb in that meritocratic direction culminating with Obama's presidential election. Now with Critical Race Theory being pushed, that era is set to come to an end. And That era has been titled a "Nixonian Meritocracy", where the main outlook was one that acknowledged the history of race in America, but tried to move FORWARD with an outlook that doesn't make race the central focus, ala Martin Luther King Jr. Now, the chapter does point out that there are some drawbacks to the colorblind outlook. It can overlook distributional inequities that if seen in lieu of race, can implicate the era as racially neglectful. What Critical Race Theory is looking to apply is an outlook that acknowledges the history of race, but instead of going forward with a perspective that doesn't make race the central focus, it is choosing to go forward with one that does. This would inspire a new multicultural generation where people acknowledge their inherent difference and distinction from each other. The book believes this could work if it can suppress territorialism and self-determination.

192. "We don't benefit" is so cliche. No one was manipulated to go to the extreme. People are willingly closing their eyes to facts that challenge their narrative and then proceed to blame someone else when things go haywire. When haven't people known that the media is a business, and that politics is run on donations and lobbying, and even movements like Black Lives Matter sustain themselves on funds contingent on narratives they push? When haven't people known this?? At this point, it is far too

late for people to come to their senses. When Trump got elected, there was a large window of opportunity for people to become sensible. When Trump disavowed the alt-right and David duke publicly on numerous occasions, people looked the other way, insisting that he supports them. When Trump put in a word of understanding toward the black lives matter movement, people looked the other way. Yes, he did that. "All Lives Matter", remember that? Well, it wasn't until Trump uttered those very words that "All Lives Matter" became racist. I know the very reason for "All Lives Matter" was to keep "Black Lives Matter" from dividing the country. So much for that. This is the new normal that our willingness to go to the extreme has brung us. Now we have to deal with this. There is no going back to a time in which both negative and positive interactions didn't draw the extreme racist connotation it does now. You can best believe that when you go out now and your day is inconvenienced by someone that doesn't represent your racial. cultural background, all of you--right or left--will wonder whether or not race played a role in it.

193. A lot is riding on innate immune response, IMO. The vaccines induce a temporary immune suppression of the Type 1 interferon response in exchange for higher viral exposure, antigen presentation, and the subsequent b-cell antibody production. This increases the chances of infection, but lowers the chances of severe sickness and death. It also allows the virus to live longer and mutate into other variants, which then require another vaccine. And the antibody response from mrna vaccination is largely variant specific. Whereas the innate immune type1 interferon response is variant non-specific and is triggered by cell-membrane disturbances, such as when the virus attaches to the host cell. I'm surprised that viral vector based vaccines have yet to be introduced. Because, with a viral vector based vaccine, the person inoculated with it not only gets the antibodies, but also gets more of the t-lymphocytes which help clear out the virus more rapidly .

194. The mRNA vaccine did what it was intended to do. It wiped out the alpha variant. But with the virus and its mutations far ahead of the variant specific vaccines, the only way for the vaccine to curtail the spread of the virus would be for vaccine makers to predict spike protein mutations in the next variant and develop a vaccine from that information. Highly improbable unless there is AI technology capable of it. Moderna admitted that the current vaccines will likely be less effective against this new variant.

195. Fed thinks they can handle this inflation issue at their convenience and just do what Volcker did in the early 80s, raise rates, and just like that, solve the inflation problem. However, this is a different time. We're talking a post-2008 bailout economy where most people are now acutely

aware that dollars can be printed at will.

196. Russia has been gradually building up its forces at the Ukrainian border since the conflict in the Donbas region began in 2014. The main issue surrounding this conflict is getting water into Crimea. After Russia annexed Crimea, Ukraine cut the water supply going into Crimea from the North Crimean Canal. In response Russia's entire policy against Ukraine has become centered around finding other ways to get flowing water into Crimea. Once such strategy was getting the pro-Russian separatists to spread unrest in eastern Ukraine, followed by persuading officials there to hold a secession referendum. The pro-Russian separatists attempted to do this in Donetsk and Luhansk. But when officials would refuse to hold a referendum, the pro-Russian separatists resorted to violence and force and did manage to establish somewhat of a republic. Thankfully things have calmed down since 2014-2015 quite a bit in terms of shelling and violence. The main goal of Russia was the establishment of a puppet state in eastern Ukraine, so that supplies like water and gas can flow into Crimea.

197. Well NATO shunned Ukraine back in 2003 after it was found out that Ukraine had sold radar systems to Iraq just prior to the Iraq War. These radar systems were able to detect stealth bombers. Ukraine defense minister has already stated that he does not need foreign troops on Ukrainian soil. He would rather NATO supply Ukraine with updated arms and artillery in the event of a Russian invasion.

198. There is some concern about oligarch influence at the moment. Many of the volunteer militias aiding Ukraine government forces against the separatists are privately funded by wealthy oligarchs. There is fear that any territory seized by these privately funded militias will be used as political leverage by oligarchs looking for favors, i.e tax concessions, subsidies, etc

199. The mrna vaccines are variant specific, and suppresses the innate immune response in exchange for a more robust antibody response, which would theoretically increase your risk of infection, but lower your chances of severe illness and death. The political backdrop that coincided with the vaccine rollout will make it near impossible for anyone to find a real solution, since things like cognitive dissonance, denial, stubborn pride, and this never surrender attitude will just compel people to accept that they have already figured it out, even in the face of evidence that may show otherwise. A good bulk of us humans are wired this way, unfortunately. And the belief of having it figured out is not the central issue. The central issue is the character assassination of anyone who may have a different approach in a time when the initial approach has not lived up to its

billing(initially, people were told they would not have to wear their mask or social distance after they got the vaccine). However, at this point, people are slowing coming to the perspective that people may be justified in choosing their approach, either vaccine or some other methodology due to waning effectiveness of the vaccine amidst other variants. Yet, I do think there are 2 things that can be somewhat confirmed. The masks are effective, and covid-19 is real.

200. It is unfortunate that NATO has decided to take an approach that would only escalate the situation. After the Warsaw pact dissolved, NATO has never made any security guarantees to Russia. Combine that with their appalling mid-east policy over the last 2 decades, now NATO has only made Russia feel more threatened. And because of this fear, Russia has been pursuing increasingly aggressive policies against its neighbors, most recently against Ukraine. I wrote a makeshift peace treaty in which NATO would take some of the blame for the escalation in Ukraine and ease some of Russia's fears, which could give way to more open-minded negotiations

201. US defense aid just arrived in Ukraine. Russia will more than likely began arming guerrillas in Latin America, many of which include mid-east Shiite militants. A few times in the past, Russia has nearly completed transactions with cartel members, transactions which involved anti-aircraft weaponry. Russia will likely make the same offer the Germans made to Mexico back during World War I; an offer that involved Texas being returned to Mexico. So sad to see it come to this. Americans have no clue of the residual implications of this, or just how extensive Russia's Shiite/Cartel network has become over the years.

202. A lot comes down to where people are perceiving some type of injustice and whether or not this perception is accurate or even warranted. When any perception of injustice, imagined or real is allowed to permeate in the conscious framework of human beings, a corresponding masculine assertiveness is likely to follow, along with the idea that such a characteristic should be the standard for that situation. This happens at the individual level and at the group level. If this archetype of wisdom and love was found anywhere in the US, among any group, we would not have this political schism. For instance, if the right of the political spectrum understood that some humans fundamentally require change, they would be able to honor this reality. Same with the left. If the Left understood that some humans innately require stability, continuity and tradition, they would be able to at least seek out a compromise. But this is not the case, both sides can't understand how the other could be comprised of fundamental characteristics that differ from their own. Sure, there are extremes when someone's fundamental human needs are given priority over the situation at hand, such as when the status

quo or tradition is maintaining the continued suffering of others or when change requires upending a very favorable prevailing circumstance. But what we have in the US now is contrarianism towards the perceived consensus of the political opposition, all for the sake of controlling the conversation. No one knows what is technically left or right anymore. An example is "my body, my choice" going from a leftist mantra to a conservative one all because of the vaccine. Putin for all intents and purposes was soft when he first became president of Russia, very soft. He nearly had Russia join NATO. At the time pre- 9/11, there was no need for him to present himself as this strong leader, especially with regards to the west. But when our US military/NATO began carrying out reckless activities in the middle east with little to no repercussions, other nations went on high alert. So of course, it is to be expected that Russia would be leery of it's neighbors making military and economic alliances with an entity that can pretty much do whatever it wants with little to no consequences.

203. Thankfully Ukraine has stated that Russian invasion is not imminent. NATO/US exaggeration of the Russia conflict has been reminiscent of what was said about Iraq in 2003, and what is scary is that many Americans are still willing to just abandon critical thinking and go along with it.

204. Ukraine's defense minister has already said that Ukraine would just prefer to have the US/NATO supply arms over sending troops there. Ukraine is very confident that with enough weaponry, they can stave off a Russian advance. Bringing troops on foreign soil is always a complex issue, and in many ways could lead to opposition. This was a big issue during the Gulf War. Even though Saudi Arabia insisted that US troops intervene in Kuwait, other Arab nations like Egypt initially opposed the presence of US military. Even within Saudi Arabia, groups like the Wahhabis rose up against US presence in Saudi Arabia. Same happened in Syria. Some pro-Syrian groups rose up and revolted against the presence of Russian troops on their soil, even though Russian troops were there to aid them against ISIS and the Syrian rebels.

205. Russia has to be careful because in the past whenever they embarked upon any conflict that didn't go over well with their population, the people there revolted and overthrew the government. This has been largely due to the fact that Russia has never achieved the economic viability of its western counterparts. Hence, why anti-war protests and overthrow in Russia has historically coincided with complaints of the Russian government's economic neglect. This is what happened during the Russia-Japan conflict and it led to an uprising in Russia in 1905. Later, Russian involvement in World War I was followed by the overthrow of both the tsarist regime and the subsequent provisional government. Even then,

economic issues were a huge catalyst. Russia making no qualms about appearing as an aggressor and launching a full-scale invasion of Ukraine will likely give way to antiwar pro-Ukrainian sympathizers in Russia and could set off a chain of events that could challenge the very sustainment of the Russian Federation. If sanction are applied concurrently, then economic fallback in Russia could show history repeat itself--the people of Russia becoming highly ill-content with their government. When it comes to the sympathizer element, this dynamic has even happened in Ukraine at the start of the Donbas conflict. The Azov Battalion, a pro-Ukrainian militia group that defended Mariupol from being taken by the pro-Russian separatists, was actually comprised of majority Russian-speakers from eastern Ukraine, who likely sympathized with the Ukrainian-speakers and thus joined their ranks. This dynamic could also apply within the Russian Federation if Russia cannot convince their own country that they are justified to launch a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. As a side note, World War II didn't lead to the collapse of the Soviet Union because Germany was clearly the aggressor, but later economic issues in 80s did lead to the fall of the Soviet Union. So Russia, if it plans to embark on any major military incursion, has to be prepared for the economic fallback and the public reaction to it, which could have systemic implications for the current Russian administration.

206. At the moment, I don't believe Russia ever intended to launch a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. It is important to keep in mind that much of what is happening now is on the heels of a civil war within Ukraine between pro-Russian Ukrainians and pro-Ukrainian Ukrainians in eastern Ukraine. Remember, the Russian annexation of Crimea came after the majority Russian-speaking population there issued a referendum and voted for Crimea to leave Ukraine and join the Russian federation. Referendums are legally neutral from an international standpoint, but Ukraine and the UN didn't recognize the referendum as legitimate, so what Ukraine did was launch a sort of mini scorched-earth policy, damming the North Crimean canal and restricting the flow of water into Crimea, the now Russian territory. Russia thus helped cultivate pro-Russian separatism in eastern Ukraine so that a puppet states could be set up, allowing supplies like gas and water to flow into Crimea. The pro-Russian separatists managed to carve out autonomous territory in Luhansk and Donetsk and right now much of Russia's strategy is to maintain the autonomy of those regions until Ukraine is prepared to listen to Russia's view of the situation.

207. The conflict has come quite a long way from where it was back in 2014-2015. Such a shame to watch NATO/US undo all of the progress that came about from the Minsk protocols and other de-escalation efforts that transpired over the years. Too bad the US doesn't apply DIME in their

foreign policy anymore.

208. US raid in Syria kills ISIS leader Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi. ISIS will just find another leader. Killing Baghdadi did nothing to stop ISIS and it is likely killing that al Hashimi will do nothing either. ISIS has figured out how to evade airstrikes and will just continue to recruit, ambush Syrian fighters, gain access to gas fields, and advance their subterranean warfare tactics, which the west or the east for that matter has no answer for.

209. The main tenet of Islam and the Abrahamic religions is justice. Unfortunately, we all have our own idea of what justice is or what it entails at the moment. And when someone or a group of people have the conviction that their actions are enacting justice, it becomes very hard to convince them to take a different approach. This is just human nature. When one pushes peace, he is denying another group of what they feel is the full measure of justice, which is in itself considered just as high a virtue as peace.

210. The vast majority of ISIS is made up of Saddam loyalists and they are able to recruit based on the fact that many Sunni minorities in Iraq feel alienated from the largely Shiite-run nation. They are also able to recruit Syrians who are dissatisfied with the Assad regime. Sure, the odds are stacked against ISIS, who are literally surrounded by enemies on all sides. Russia, Syria, Iran, Iraq, US, etc. There is literally no rest for them, and with ISIS-k creating unrest in Afghanistan, a place which could have been a potential refuge for ISIS as an offshoot of Al Qaeda of Iraq, an extended network of the Al Qaeda whom the Taliban use to provide refuge for, ISIS is stuck having to navigate surreptitiously from place to place, avoiding detection by hiding in underground structures. Drones are widespread in the middle east and Africa, and the US and Israel can strike with precision any person standing on the face of the earth. The problem with using drones is that those operating them are fallible and have made mistakes that cost civilian lives. This is why research into subterranean warfare is so important at the moment because mistakes and civilian casualties will only be tolerated for so long. It will reach the point where militaries will have to use drones to locate the enemy, but then use foot soldiers to go in or under to take out the target.

211. Russia and the US certainly have a common enemy in ISIS, but it seems the US is adamant about keeping itself out of the fray of the Russia-Iran-Syria-Shiite consortium.

212. Everything is being done to collapse the USA. Advocating separatism(CRT), neglecting and undermining critical alliances abroad,

defunding public safety institutions, allowing inflation to run rampant! This is not a conspiracy. This is what is happening right before your eyes.

213. Russian buildup is to prevent Ukraine from reclaiming separatist territory, and nothing more. If Ukraine goes all in on Donetsk and Luhansk, then Russia will likely move in to prevent that from happening. It is not on Russia to make the first move. It's on Ukraine, because at the moment the DPR and LPR are still autonomous.

214. US is undermining Ukraine on the Russia issue, and now they are refusing to share intel with Ukraine. This is ripe for disaster and setting the stage for a power struggle between Ukraine and the US. Ukraine is not going to sit back and let the US call the shots on their soil. Ukraine is not a third world country, but the US is treating them like they are

215. Zelensky demands proof of Moscow's attack plans, decries intelligence reports as 'only provoking panic and not helping us' This is disgusting to watch. The US creating panic in Ukraine, a country that is trying to heal from a violent civil war. Now the president of Ukraine is stating clearly that the US has not shared intel with them on an imminent Russian invasion, and has also stated that US rhetoric is actually hurting them. This is crazy and sad.

216. Ukraine is a country of both Russian speakers and Ukrainian speakers, and it was the separatist Russian-speaking Ukrainians in eastern Ukraine that solicited the aid of the Russian Federation and who also shot down the MH17 passenger jet with Russian artillery. By backing the separatists, Russia without question destabilized Ukraine and prolonged the conflict, similar to how the US backed separatists in Libya and Syria and essentially destroyed and destabilized those countries before abandoning their commitments. But over the years so much progress has been made at de-escalating the conflict in Ukraine, particularly through the efforts of France and Germany--Angela Merkel was highly influential. She can speak fluent Russia, and when the US volunteered to send troops to Ukraine a few years back, she immediately shot down that idea fearing it would basically lead to what is happening now. We certainly miss her.

217. For years leading up to now, NATO and the US has been conducting provocative military drills near Russia's borders, rehearsing airstrike maneuvers and ballistic missile defense. Even rejecting joint agreements from Russian Generals in which both sides would scale down military exercises. Of course Russia is going to feel they need to secure their borders. Combine that with the fact the NATO has never given Russia any security guarantees since the Warsaw pact and the Soviet Union ended.

NATO/US has provoked this entire fiasco.

218. Another thing too is that much of the NATO/US provocation near Russia's borders happened during Trump's tenure, someone who everyone says is pro-Russian

219. I wouldn't call withholding evidence and undermining Ukraine's assessment of the Russia situation as getting tough on Russia. If anything, the US is being tough on Ukraine. Zelensky is not even closing his airspace.

220. The west ignores the fact that the majority Russian-speaking population in Crimea voted in a referendum to have Crimea join with the Russian Federation prior to the annexation. Hence why Ukrainian forces simply withdrew and let Russian troops move in. Referendums are not illegal from an international standpoint, so technically after the referendum, Crimea had become a part of Russia. Ukraine knows that the Russian buildup along the border is more about Russia preparing in the event that Ukraine does join NATO. Because if that happens, NATO and US forces will gather at the eastern border near Russia and conduct provocational military exercises on a regular basis. It will become a permanent fixture of geopolitics in that area. Remember, the US has proven that they do not need justification to invade a country and for the past 4 or 5 years have been conducting dangerous military exercises along Russia's border where Finland and Sweden are located. Russia has asked NATO on numerous occasions for both themselves and the US to scale it down, but the US has refused. Right now, US propaganda has its grip on the public and Americans are completely swayed, even leftist have become total pro-war nationalists who have all of a sudden forgot the fact that the US military and NATO has wiped out more civilians in the middle east than all the nations combined.

221. NATO has a policy where any country involved in a border dispute cannot join. However, from a strategic standpoint, the US would have an advantage in being able to have access to the eastern border of Ukraine. It allows their troops to set up defense protocols right on the Russian border and influence Russian domestic policy. Imagine Russian troops being able to conduct military exercises at the Mexican/US border. Before, it was only that northwestern area of the Russian border where NATO/US could conduct drills, the area where Finland and Sweden are located. In the past, any incursions into Russia had to pass through Ukraine. Going through Ukraine was the method of attacks against Russia. In the 1500s, the Crimean Tatars use to raid Russian territory via eastern Ukraine. Sweden went through Ukraine during the Great Northern War in 1709 before being repelled by Russian tsar Peter the Great and Hitler went through Ukraine in order to conduct an invasion of Russia. It is likely that the US

will conduct a pretext in order to justify an invasion of Russia, and with access to Ukraine's eastern border along with the American public's blind support, it would be very easy for the US to take such a course of action. If Ukraine joins NATO, it will automatically turn into the US vs Russia show. US will simply feed Ukraine with news of Russian invasion prospects so that Ukraine will allow the US army free access to their eastern border. Ukraine will simply fade into the background and play second fiddle to the US commander in chief.

222. Here is what is going to happen in the future. Russia is not going to invade Ukraine, never was. If Ukraine joins NATO, Russia will began initiating a coalition similar to the Warsaw Pact, and look for ways to gain greater access to Latin America. Mexico will be the likely target of their recruitment. When this is achieved, Mexico will allow Russian troops into their country. Latin America is already heavily Russian influenced; El Salvador has a Russian TV news station.

223. Russia certainly hasn't yet officially recognized the DPR and LPR as independent. I think Russia thus far has only recognized DPR and LPR issued documents like driver's licenses as valid in Russia, but still consider the Donbas region as part of Ukraine. But with Ukraine declaring their intention to join NATO today, it is certainly possible that Russia will move to recognize the the DPR and LPR as separate from Ukraine in order to justify bringing more Russian troops into the region, that is, before NATO forces have a chance to embed themselves on Ukrainian soil. If this process of Russian troop advancement into the DPR and LPR region is impeded in some way, I think that could compel some type of false flag in order to justify breaching Ukraine's borders all out. Hopefully, Ukraine will be wise enough to offer repealing Poreshenko's bill that Russia feels violated the Minsk agreement, a bill which gives Ukraine the right to use military force to reclaim separatist territory. That seems to be the only diplomatic option to appease Russia at the moment now that Ukraine is adamant about joining NATO. The only hope to avert war is containment, which is what the Minsk protocol does, calling for a special status for the DPR and LPR and very slow re-intergration back into Ukraine. However, the US and its threatening rhetoric has completely compromised any of that transpiring

224. We don't need another war on foreign soil and this administration like the last one is flirting with danger, going around disrupting diplomatic containment strategies geared towards preventing a horrifying outcome should military technology be used at full scale. How do you think Zelensky got elected in the first place?? Because he showed to Ukraine that he was willing to do whatever it took to de-escalate the crisis in Ukraine, appealing to both Russian speakers and Ukrainian speakers. But now look

at his approval rating, it has plummeted. The coup attempt a month ago was orchestrated by Ukrainians who do not want Ukraine to be allied with NATO or the US, because its just going to make matters worse in their country. The weapons at Russia and the US disposal will decimate everything. Most of this war mongering support for Ukraine is coming from westerners who don't know anything about Ukraine and don't mind shitting in someone else's backward, starting a war that they can exit at a moment's notice. If you haven't figured out that wars in this age involve not just soldiers killing soldiers, but also soldiers killing women and children, then God help you. For that reason, war is not an option. Be a coward, a people pleaser, kiss **, anything.... just don't start another war.**

225. The Russia buildup along Ukrainian borders is about NATO addressing his security concerns, and Ukraine keeping their distance from NATO if they refuse to make concessions. In fact NATO is a flashpoint on this very specific issue since if Ukraine decides not to join NATO, Russia essentially removes their troops from the borders, and the situation in Ukraine is contained. If you cared about the security of Ukraine, you would go with the option that is best for them, but instead what do you do. You go with the option that results in millions dead. Perfect!

226. Were talking 4-5 years of NATO provocation along Russia's borders with Sweden and Finland, thanks to President Trump, but of course we can't blame Trump because people are caught up in these narratives in which info that does not fit gets tossed out--this doesn't fit the Trump pro-Russia narrative. Now with Ukraine joining NATO, Russia is looking at US NATO provocation on a regular basis at Ukraine's eastern border.

227. I actually I want Ukraine to be militarily sovereign and independent, because that is what will maintain the security of all of Europe, for them not to side with Russia or join a coalition like NATO. In fact such would ease concerns in both eastern and western Europe, leading both sides having to ensure Ukraine remain independent, a huge plus considering historically they've never really achieved this. Both western Europe and Russia has had a hand in controlling Ukraine throughout the centuries. For a time Ukraine was divided between Russia and Poland. After WWI and during WWII, even as Ukraine declared themselves liberated from Russia as Germany advanced, they still came under the control of German forces. There has always been a slight tug of war between east and west when came to Ukraine and in order for them to really get experience what it is like to be a nation, they need to stand alone and for a time, they were able to do this. But a schism occurred within their own country, which divided Russian speakers and Ukrainian speakers and this has allowed outside forces like Russia and NATO to exacerbate problems related to

this.

228. This situation is about learning from World War I. World War II was just just a continuation of World War I from the German perspective. They just lost a major war and a large swath of territory, territory gained during the Franco-Prussian War. Comparing Germany's situation after their humiliating defeat in World War I to Russia's current situation is comparing apples and oranges. Germany was out for revenge. Russia fears an imperial country invading theirs by going though Ukraine. People are applying a familiarity bias here, believing that false flag attacks, aggressive military policy, backing separatists and launching invasions are only a Russian thing, that somehow the US just doesn't think in this manner. What happened to the last 20 years of US foreign policy? It just faded into thin air all of a sudden. But nevermind the invasion of Iraq, look up Operation Northwoods. Your very own America Department of Defense had detailed plans to launch attacks on its own citizens in order to get support for an invasion of Cuba. Thankfully JFK didn't approve of it. What he have now is ultimatum aspect that leads to wars. One country making demands upon another, while the other looking to save face refuses. Allies get involved promising to back one refusing, and then a domino effect occurs and huge war breaks. At the outset everyone feels justified, but as time passes and soldiers began to die in the thousands or the millions, people back home who initially supported the war start calling for an end to it because it begins to seem pointless. This is what is happening now, and human lack of critical thinking is why it will just keep happening generation after generation.

229. No one has done more to undermine this country than the extreme left and extreme right. When Obama was in office, the conservatives who were sympathetic to Syria and Libya, all of a sudden felt a surge of patriotism when Trump got in office. Abandoning containment strategies in favor of aggressive rhetoric and threats of invasion became okay with them all of a sudden. While left took the anti-American route, criticizing America at every turn, dividing the country among race, creed and everything else you name, all before apologizing to a country that states with its very own mouth DEATH TO AMERICA, DEATH TO ISRAEL.. Now that its the democrats turn, patriotism is okay now. The US is not that bad. Stop trying to control the conversation!

230. It is unfortunate that the Trump narratives are being used by the left as the litmus test to validate their political views. It is a tragic mistake. At the moment the left doesn't realize that by blindly supporting the US on this Russia issue, it will give our military the green light to become more aggressive not just with Russia but also with their allies, like Syria, Iran, NK, and China, something they have been itching to do for decades now.

The Left will find themselves having to go along with it all. The left is not realizing that they are actually playing into the hands of people like Donald Trump, who is clearly pro-vax now btw, who actually wants to return to that rose-colored blindly supporting era of the American epoch, where anything America said was believed by the public. And now if he does run in 2024 and wins, this time it will be because of the left that we are doomed because he will bring out the wolf and defend America at any and all costs and will have a nice political backdrop that supports his self justified nationalism and militarism. It is actually because of him and his provocation of Russia over the last 4 years that we are in the mess now, but the left and the right are stuck in these narratives.

231. Our military industrial complex certainly has one goal and that is to use the weapons that they have worked so hard to develop. Gen Leslie Groves felt strongly that if the US was going to put so much effort and investment towards developing a nuclear bomb during the Manhattan project, then they should certainly intend to use them. Eisenhower is right. People have to be vigilant and diplomacy has to become central. We're not fighting with spears, swords and shields anymore. This era of conflict is going to require compromise and appearing as a doormat in some cases. War is off the table and any approach that cultivates it is not an option. In Ukraine, there are always going to be a pro-Russian element, many in eastern and southern Ukraine are pro-Russian. And the US not being cognizant of this, may have re-upset the balance within Ukraine and reignited domestic discord there. People in the US don't understand how to approach this issue.

232. Ukrainian President has already mocked US intelligence 24 hours ago, calling for a day of singing and dancing on Feb 16th, the same day that the US said Russia would invade. That may have been what eased Putin. Biden has placed western credibility on the line, because if there is no Russian invasion, as US intel continues to show no evidence, the US will have a hard time convincing anyone in the future of almost anything. This would be the third major dud on the part of US Intel. First was of course the Iraq War when Saddam supposedly had weapons of mass destruction or every intention buy yellow cake uranium from west Africa. Second was the drone strike on the ISIS planner that turned out to be an aid worker and his family transporting jugs of water, and now this third one a full-on Russian invasion of Ukraine.

233. Conflating the desire to use diplomacy with Russia as something to be inherently pro-Russian/anti-American is extremely dangerous and takes a page right out of McCarthyism. Too many at the moment don't have a clue about the backdrop concerning NATO/US tensions with Russia. In 1994, the Clinton administration started the NATO expansion initiative, but back

then it was aimed at unifying all of Europe for the sake of coming to a consensus on arms reduction. Russia initially welcomed this, and Putin himself considered having Russia join the alliance. By 2002, after 9/11, the war on terror became another point of agreement between eastern and western Europe and a NATO alliance. But still, many insisted that this initiative by the US to expand NATO into Eastern Europe needlessly provokes Russia, and knew well in advance it could lead to growing tensions with Moscow if NATO began admitting Baltic states. During the Bush Administration's campaign to expand NATO, the US would admit former soviet republics in the Baltics in 2004. Once again, Russia has no problem here. Now in 2008, after it was clear that the US/NATO were overstepping their boundaries in the middle east, the US declared its intention to have Georgia and Ukraine join NATO, a move that other NATO members like Germany and France considered detrimental to positive relations with Russia. At this point Russia begins to worry, warning the US and NATO that a military bloc at his borders won't be tolerated. Mind you, this is before the Crimea issue that every one is using to justify US provocation. Started before then. At this juncture, the US is an aggressive imperial country, and NATO expansion all of a sudden is not looking like the peace initiative it started out as. Then Obama happened. During his administration, NATO/US basically instigates unrest in Syria and Libya by arming violent separatists with no intention of committing any long term positive change for those regions, leaving civilians there at the mercy of violent Assad, ISIS and armed militia groups. Now Russia is completely alarmed at this point, seeing that Syria is an ally of Russia. At this juncture, NATO expansion has to stop, from Russia's standpoint. Russia begins to become extremely concerned about his neighbors allying themselves with a powerful self-justified entity.

234. The US refuses to take a conciliatory approach with Russia. Biden is doing a wonderful job with Iran, attempting to re-establish agreements set up during the Obama administration. Why not do that here with Russia? People are still stuck in this Trump pro-Russia narrative. After 2017, Trump was anything but. For god sakes, he threatened China and Russia with a nuclear arms race, and then proceeded to threaten Russia directly, stating an intention to withdraw the US from a cold war era nuclear arms treaty in 2018, before actually doing so in 2019. This on the heels on 15 years of NATO provocation of Russia. When Trump withdrew the US from that INF treaty, Russia no longer had any way of being assured that intermediate range ballistic missiles would not be deployed to his immediate neighbors in Ukraine and Georgia in the event that they join NATO. See why Russia is so tense?? My question is, why doesn't Biden lay off the threats and simply look to re-establish a nuclear arms treaty with Russia and undo that dangerous Donald Trump foreign policy. That seems like a plausible first-step in de-escalation and actually goes right along

with his foreign policy.

235. Putin is allowing France and Germany to mediate a ceasefire agreement in eastern Ukraine. The US may need to just sit this one out. They've been a cancer to this entire ordeal.

236. Any convoy of Russian artillery headed to separatist territory in the Donbas region via the Izvaryne border crossing is not a full scale invasion. In fact, it is typical Russian response to increased shelling in eastern Ukraine--sending artillery and unmarked troops to reinforce separatist territory and of course denying that is what they are doing. They have been doing this all throughout the civil war there. Be careful not to let the western media and US intel misconstrue this in order to gain more public approval for intervention in Ukraine. Zelensky is already losing his patience with the US, not understanding why the US won't simply sanction Russia if they are so sure of invasion. He sees no point in waiting until Ukraine is obliterated before doing so.

237. Russia and the US are both problematic when it comes to arming violent separatists in other countries when it serves their interests. Both know full well the consequences of doing so. In the past 20 years, however, the US has done more to instigate unrest throughout the world, including provoking Russia by expanding NATO into eastern Europe, amid numerous warning from Europe and foreign policy experts in the US.

238. The citizens of Crimea, mostly Russian-speaking, voted in a referendum to make Crimea a part of Russia. You willfully ignore that specific. Even with that being the case, the US likely played a huge role in affecting Russia's policy towards Ukraine, seeing that Putin warned the US back in 2008, 6 years before the Crimea issue, that he would not tolerate a multi-national military bloc near his borders. The current build up is more about deterring NATO than any specific intention to invade Ukraine. Ukraine themselves have denied that a Russian invasion was underway, which is another specific that the US willfully ignores. Ukraine does have its own intelligence apparatus. Who in their right mind would trust the expansionist ambitions of the US/NATO, seeing how they destroyed entire nations in the middle east with little to no justification. The US has been poking the bear for years now and if they keep it up, Russia will stop letting the EU mediate on affairs in eastern Europe and will feel threatened enough to expand again. They could have snapped Georgia in 2 back in 2008, but still allowed the EU to intervene. Even with NATO and US threats at the moment, Russia is still nice enough to let the EU intervene on the crisis with Ukraine.

239. Secession can be good or bad depending on the situation. The US

came about by seceding from England on land that wasn't natively their own. Was that a bad thing for your newfound pro-American argument? All those former Soviet Nations in eastern Europe gained their independence by seceding from the Soviet Union. Was that a bad thing?. Ukraine became a nation by seceding from the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth. Was that a bad thing? Britain just recently seceded from the EU. Was that a bad thing? See where the anti-secession argument get you? Secession is relative to the situation. With Crimea, you have a state that is mostly Russian-speaking that feels closer ties to Russia. And to be honest, Crimea historically belongs neither to Ukraine or Russia, but to the Crimean Tatars, who have been heavily marginalized in their own native land for decades

240. I don't always agree with protesting because that in itself can be a source of provocation towards the authorities, and oftentimes the most virulent members of our society can latch onto to protest movements and wreak havok. Violence and oppression of civilian population is bad, but so is violence and slander towards government officials. My only goal is pacifism and peace, both for government and civilians, all without violent reaction. So I myself have to be careful not to give off the impression of being anti-government. Right now, I do think the US has to be more humble. I've exhorted Biden on foreign policy, and I like what he is doing with Iran and I hope he re-establishes a nuclear treaty with Russia. I send Biden positive tweets all the time.

241. You are witnessing a country that is in a civil war. This is not Russia vs Ukraine. This is a schism among Ukrainians--Ukrainian speaking vs Russian speaking. It is also perfectly legal for Russia to have their own military anywhere within their own borders, just as it is legal for NATO to line up and conducts military exercises near Russia's borders on a regular basis. The question is how far are both entities NATO and Russia willing to go to alarm the other. Both NATO and Russia need to scale it down, which is something that only Russia has offered to do.

242. Putin just recognized breakaway regions. We decided to bring combative rhetoric to a diplomatic containment strategy that would have kept this very thing from happening. Democrats have to come to their senses. Biden has a history of trying to appeal to republican agenda, and in the case of Russia he applied a strategy that a number of republicans have been looking to assert against Russia for years. It wasn't enough that Obama levied sanctions, or Trump pulled out of a nuclear treaty, or that NATO has been provoking Russia for years. That specific sector of republicans in the republican party were not going to be happy until someone insulted Russia directly with words. Biden has a history of trying to appeal to the republican party, and this time it will be costly. And seeing

that many of the democrats are right along with his approach, it could re-unify the country politically. Remember, Biden was anti-abortion and anti-gay marriage for years(until 2012) and prided himself on being the democrat that could reach republicans; him and Mitch McConnell worked together to solve the debt ceiling crisis in 2011. Biden also supported the war in Iraq. Now the country will likely rally around a common enemy that both the democrats and that specific sector of republicans will come to see in Russia. The drawback is that the American propaganda machine will have nothing to answer to. Congrats to Biden, he did take a massive step in uniting this country politically by appealing to that specific demographic of republicans who just live for war. It is not all republicans. It is a very specific sector in the republican party.

243. Ukraine has been dealing with Russian troops amassing at their borders for years, and at one point they were concerned about a full-scale invasion, but the Minsk protocols and EU mediation on the part of France and Germany has quelled any belief on the part of Ukraine that Russia was planning a full scale invasion of the country. This is why both the Ukrainian president and the defense minister stated that their own intel showed that an invasion was not likely. What the US is doing is what they have always done with Russia, and that is provocation/poking the bear. If I wanted to prove that someone had an anger problem, all I would have to do is poke at them a number of times. Then, my point will be proven, because they will get upset and then show their anger, proving my point. My argument is that the US is embarking on a strategy will only serve the likelihood of a war breaking out. Diplomacy keeps war at bay, and the US came into this crisis barking like a dog while everyone else was speaking carefully with each other, not wanting to tip over a boiling pot.

244. I think it is typical Biden fashion to navigate both sides of the political spectrum in order to encourage moderate outlooks among both parties. This has been his modus operandi throughout his political career. This is why we have this conundrum of non-commitment of troop deployment to Ukraine, along with a hardline rhetoric against Russia. Biden really is trying to appeal to both sides, but this is a dangerous high wire act on his part. If he is successful, Russia does not invade, and at the same time, he has won over the anti-Trump pro-war republican sector, while at the same time maintaining his base with the democrats. If he fails, we all die. My fear is that any momentum in the way of hardline militaristic non-diplomatic approach will be allowed to fester in US foreign policy for years to come. Maybe Biden knows what he is doing here. Hope he does.

245. What Russia is doing is the much lesser evil than invading and taking over an entire country. Russia is simply recognizing rebel controlled territory as independent. They also did this in Georgia, and in 2008, the

EU actually implicated both the Georgian government and Russia during the brief war that occurred back then. Much of Russia's policy in eastern Europe has been to prevent a ethnic cleansing scenario, but I don't believe Russian speakers were being marginalized as such in Ukraine, seeing that 2 pro-Russian presidents were elected in Kuchma and Yanucovich . Still, in this case, Russia is not invading. They are simply protecting separatist territory from the larger governing apparatus. China on the other hand wants Taiwan to give up their sovereignty and join with the mainland. The US is the worst of all. They went a step far beyond Russia. They didn't recognize rebel groups in Libya and Syria as independent in their own space. They recognized the Libyan and Syrian rebels as the legitimate ruling authority of the entire country and then proceeded to arm them. That is insane. Even Russia has not gone that far with separatist groups

246. Trump may have alarmed the Russian state by pulling out of a nuclear treaty and setting off another arms race. Keep in mind that it was not the democrats who lobbied for this type of confrontation with Russia. It was actually Mitt Romney and other republicans that have been lobbying for a direct confrontation with Russia for years. Obama and the democrats rebuffed and criticized Romney in 2012 for saying that Russia was our greatest geopolitical foe. Now the Democrats and the Romney types in the republican party have joined forces on getting tough with Russia. This getting tough essentially means war. The democratic party no longer carries the mantle of peacekeeper that it worked so hard to cultivate throughout the decades. But lets be honest, the US talks tough before the fact, but when women and little babies on both sides of the conflict start dropping like flies, these so called "get tough" people will be the first ones marching in the streets, begging for the war to end.

247. I wonder what now. Apparently the "full scale invasion by Russia against Ukraine" was Russian troops and artillery being deployed to rebel-held territory, something Russia has been doing throughout the conflict. Only this time, Russia has recognized rebel-territory as independent of Ukraine. The US has stated that they will view this as the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. So now, we can assume that Biden will commit US troops to helping Ukraine reclaim the Donbas region from the Russia-backed separatists.

248. "In an interview with CNN on Tuesday morning, the Biden administration's Deputy National Security Advisor Jon Finer said: "Invasion is an invasion and that is what is underway." Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered troops to enter eastern Ukraine on Monday evening after Moscow said it would recognize two self-declared republics in the region. "We think this is, yes, the beginning of an invasion," Finer told CNN on Tuesday. "I am calling it an invasion. We're taking a severe

response including sanctions on Russia [that] we'll be rolling out in a matter of hours."

249. And when the US continues to provoke Russia into further escalation, and then gain your support for US troop intervention in Ukraine, I'm sure you will be all for it, but after years of shelling, needless civilian death, and the threat of nuclear war becomes imminent, you will deny you ever supported a war in the first place. Then you will proceed to virtue signal in public, proclaiming your support for anti-war protesters, while forgetting you denied the power of diplomacy to de-escalate geopolitical tensions.

250. At the moment, much of eastern Ukraine's Russian speaking population is still geared towards being a part of Ukraine, but if fighting escalates, that will change and will lead to Russia expanding beyond the DPR and LPR. And if that happens, the US may embark upon that covert strategy of training insurgents to go into Ukraine and fight against Russia and of course if Russia follows suit against NATO member countries, there is no telling where this could lead. Right now, however, a very clear line of control needs to be reinforced, and another ceasefire agreement established. It is called "damage control." Zelensky can then focus on trying to re-unite his country, both Russian-speakers and Ukrainian speakers. If the US is just talking tough and not planning on helping Ukraine directly in any long term fashion, then they need to stop cultivating unrest in Ukraine with dangerous rhetoric. If this is Ukraine's war, and they want to be helpful, they need to honor Ukraine's input on the matter. Right now Ukraine wants to the US to supply them with weapons and shut up. Americans are so caught up in this wave of nationalism, that they are ignoring these intricacies and assigning anything or anyone that looks to think critically on this, seeing all the foreign policy mistakes by the US in the past, as a traitor and anti-American. It sucks that Russia recognized the DPR and LPR as separate from Ukraine, but there is still hope and room for containment. The only way to reverse this overnight is by direct military confrontation, but there is a severe cost of trying that.

251. US/Russia relations automatically affect Israel's security issue with regards to Syria. During the Trump presidency, Russia made significant strides developing relations with other mid-east countries. When Russia intervened in Syria, they managed to establish a coordination with Israel, basically allowing Israel conduct strikes in Syria against Iranian-backed targets without getting involved. That may change now as the US and Russia's relations have deteriorated.

252. I think Biden responded correctly with just applying some sanctions. Obviously many will call him weak, but exhausting every option aimed at

averting the worst case scenario is the only way to go. But he made a mistake by engaging this conflict with insults and threats. Not sure where the democrats changed course on this. They initially warned him about this

253. Russian President Vladimir Putin declares war on Ukraine. I stand corrected. US intel was correct. But I think our rhetoric didn't help the situation, and of course the US didn't take Russia or their own advisors serious when they stated repeatedly how NATO expansion into eastern Europe would only provoke Russia. When GW Bush stated an intention to make Ukraine and Georgia a part of NATO back in 2008, Putin warned back then that he would not tolerate a multinational military bloc at his borders. But still, US intel was right on the money this time, so I have no problem admitting it. We have to realize that there is a consortium, though. It is not just Russia we are in a war against. It is Russia, Iran, China, Latin America, Syria, the Houthis in Yemen. And Biden can pretty much forget about any diplomatic efforts with Iran at this point.

254. This administration abandoned diplomacy right from the start, and the outcome of that is going to be war every single time. Biden was warned back in 2021 by 27 political organizations, many of them left leaning organizations, to back off the hostile reckless anti-Russia rhetoric. Now, we have a new precedent in foreign policy where it becomes standard to solve conflicts with threats. Sure, in hindsight many will say Russia was going to do it anyway, but anyone who has followed this over the years know that the stage was being set for this, largely in part to willful provocation on the part of the west. At this point, there is no point in complaining about Trump's foreign policy approach with NK and Iran, because it was basically the same as Biden's approach with Russia.

255. I think one of the policies with NATO is that if country is at war or having a border dispute, they cannot join. The purpose of this, I believe, is to keep current NATO members from inheriting enemies. But to my knowledge though, the US(and Russia) convinced Ukraine to give up its nuclear weapons back in the 1990s in exchange for security assurances. Looks like that is not going to be the case from either country.

256. Biden helped escalate the crisis in eastern Europe with dangerous rhetoric and then promised to help Ukraine if Russia advanced. Where is the help, now? Ukraine is basically gone. Biden is sending troops to NATO countries. Once again, we make these commitments and then walk away. That is not a conducive anti-war approach, because in such a case, one is assuring an ally and then breaking that promise. Yeah, we avoid war, but you mislead an ally about your intentions. Why do that? Why not just apply conciliatory measures from the start, help de-escalate the crisis, and

not need to falsely promise military intervention. Now we can't be trusted. Sure our intel was right, but wrong about assuring Ukraine against Russian aggression. Russia could have easily declared independent the DPR and LPR back in 2015, but thanks to France and Germany's diplomacy, he held off.

257. Russia needs to be concerned, for sure, especially if the US discusses adopting a pre-emptive foreign policy approach against Russia. Much in the way India attempted to apply that against Pakistan. Basically meaning one is justified to strike with finality for no imminent reason. But the US should be ashamed for knowingly embarking upon a strategy that would escalate the crisis in eastern Europe, while also making promises it had no intention of keeping. They did this in Vietnam, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, and now it looks like Ukraine will be the next victim. That is a poor anti-war approach because sure it keeps the US from further fighting, but it literally accelerates and intensifies the destruction of another country that we are supposedly siding with. This type of foreign policy needs to end.

258. US is obviously not going to respond. That show of strength and commitment to Ukraine was a exaggerated. Too bad. Had the US took the conciliatory approach from the start, offered to re-negotiate nuclear treaties and scale down NATO military exercises, they could have avoided both this scenario and the embarrassment of having spoke hard, while carrying a soft stick. Russia on the other hand may face a different type of consequences, such as a coup attempt if Russia's economy doesn't rebound. Russia, however, has more control over their propaganda and has likely persuaded Russians that NATO is the aggressor who has aided a nazification of Ukraine. NATO could simply dissolve. The US has been problematic for its allies all year. First they ditched Saudi Arabia on the Yemen issue, then the western media went ahead and placed Hamas on a moral equivalency with Israel during the 2021 Gaza War. The US then abandoned their allies in Afghanistan. Now they are abandoning Ukraine after months of combative rhetoric with Russia which ultimately dragged Ukraine into a war they never stood a chance at winning. France is pissed, blaming the US for exporting woke culture into France, racializing the country, all the while conducting a back door nuclear submarine deal with Australia which upended a deal France was trying to attain. Germany never wanted Ukraine to join NATO fearing implications for their own country.

259. World War II is not the only imperial attempt of history. France, Germany, Russia, Sweden, Poland, Turkey, Arabia, Rome, the Franks, England, Japan, the list goes on. All these countries have attempted to expand militarily while wreaking havok and genocide along the way. War is an issue for humanity throughout history, and it seems like nations are

still more than willing to do away with all the measures that can prevent it. Back in 1939, France and England immediately declared war on Germany after Hitler invaded Poland. But that didn't stop Hitler. He simply invaded those countries, conquering France and nearly obliterating London with V1 rockets, while also going further east into Ukraine and Russia. At this point the only thing that has proven effective at stopping a military escalation after it has started is by surrendering or by dropping the atom bomb, like the US did on Japan. But who will propose that option?

260. France was hoping to deter German aggression by mobilizing near Germany's borders, much in the way NATO thought it could deter Russian aggression by conducting aggressive military drills near its borders. It certainly didn't work then and has not worked now. France could have invaded Germany before Hitler decided to strike first, but that would require coming off as the aggressor, not really knowing at that time that Hitler's planning to take over the world and kill 6 million Jews. But in hindsight, striking first certainly may have stopped Hitler. The problem now is that we don't know Putin's intentions. Is he planning on going into western Europe or invade the United States? If this is certain, then the US could plan an attack on the Russian mainland as a pre-emptive, or deploy troops to Ukraine to stop the Russian advance. Everyone is saying the US should do something, but not saying exactly what for fear of coming off as a warmonger. People want things both ways, they want to appear as though they have all the virtues of being anti-war while at the same time trying to condone a military conflict. By doing this, they remain vague on what the solution should be.

261. America has a pattern of escalating crisis in another country and then falsely promising to intervene. If America does not want war, then it should eliminate all combative rhetoric from its foreign policy. What sense does it make to take an approach that provokes a conflict without any intention of fighting in it. Wouldn't it make more sense to tread carefully if one is not trying to stir the pot?

262. Now Zelensky has stated that Ukraine has been left alone 'I've asked 27 European leaders.' 'No Answers.' The US/NATO only pledged to admit Ukraine for the sake of provoking Russia. Now that they have done this, they refuse to guarantee Ukraine's membership. Sad and despicable. They could have refused to admit Ukraine before Russia's invasion, which would have drastically eased tensions, but of course they didn't. Saudi Arabia will cut ties with the United States very soon and the US dollar will collapse.

263. NATO can still pledge to admit a country in the future, which they did of Ukraine during this crisis to provoke Russia. Had they simply refused to

admit Ukraine, like Angela Merkel did when she was chancellor of Germany, NATO could have helped ease tensions and the likelihood of an all-out invasion. I agree that the assurances made by the US to Zelensky may have given him the wrong impression. The US repeatedly stated they would defend Ukraine if Russia invaded. No one knew that such defense would be with sanctions and not military force. The nature and inflections of US rhetoric and tone made it seem like they would disregard their own earlier decision not to commit troops to Ukraine. The dollar's strength is dependent on Saudi oil, since they are the largest exporter of crude oil in the world. They help increase global demand for USD by selling their oil for US dollars. This global demand allows the US to print money en masse without much threat to the dollar's value. This will change if Saudi Arabia cuts ties and decides to sell their oil for something else. Pre-Iraq War was a time when it was much easier to convince US citizens about the necessity of fighting abroad in the middle east.

264. Now that Russia has invaded Ukraine, the warship formation near Syria is probably for the sake of safeguarding Russia's southern flank, protecting its military assets near the Syrian coast, and deterring any prospect of unilateral military operations aimed at disrupting Syria's stability.

265. No more fighting. There needs to be a ceasefire. Zelensky has reached out to Israel's Prime minister and asked that he try and broker one with Russia on his behalf. The fighting has to stop.

266. US is trying to get Saudi Arabia to produce more oil in order to get countries to stop relying on Russian oil. No question that would the devastate and probably collapse the Russian economy. Such would be followed by Russia's removal from SWIFT, which would be the nail the coffin, basically. Saudi Arabia can certainly end this. In order for it to work, Saudi Arabia and OPEC nations will have to be willing to take an economic hit. This is how the Soviet Union collapsed. Back in 85' Saudi Arabia rapidly increased its oil and nat gas extraction, and the price of oil plummeted, and this ultimately hurt the Russian economy that had come to be reliant on higher oil prices. So it may not just only be a matter of getting nations to rely on other countries besides Russia for oil; OPEC could gain considerable leverage against Russian aggression on Ukraine by flooding the oil market to undercut Russian oil producers. In this way, Russia will have no choice but to come to the negotiating table, otherwise they risk another overthrow scenario as the people in Russia already do not support the war in Ukraine and will certainly not starve because of it. That is what I gather from history

267. Obviously Russia's grievances about NATO don't matter at this point.

They chose to react with hyper aggression and brutality. Aggression nullifies everything, hence why Ghandi and MLK pushed non-violence to make their grievances known. This is why provocation is such a powerful weapon. Once the target gets angry, all the other precipitating factors that led to it are quickly forgotten.

268. Not sure why with US shale oil and option to acquire oil from Canada, the US has not decisively moved to cut its oil refinement arrangement with Russia. These arrangements are a component in geopolitics I suppose. Some economic interests are simply separated from the geopolitical backdrop. US companies Ford and GM apparently had business ties with the Nazi War machine back in the 1930's and 40s. Biden's policy on Ukraine/Russia certainly helps the United States. Russia will lose much of its diplomatic gains over the last 4 years, and its economy will suffer. There will also be a regime change there that will have no choice but to support western/US interests. However, it was real bad for the US to volunteer Ukraine to be the martyr here, but as far as the balance of power, Russia has forfeited its position by choosing aggression. And seeing that people have short term memory issues, US atrocities in the middle east will magically be forgotten as a result of Russia's imperial action against Ukraine. The only downfall is the trustworthiness of US foreign policy. But this ultimately will work out for the US, now that Russia has become last place on the global moral standing metric, and anyone that is "America first" should probably thank Joe Biden.

269. Diplomatically Russia is destroyed and on the verge of being isolated. If the US is serious about OPEC intervention on the oil markets for the sake of undercutting Russian oil profits, then Russia is finished. Their regime will simply be overthrown in a military coup. The catch is that a number of nations will have to take an economic hit as well, at least until regime change in Russia is complete If Russia wants to, they can counter attempts to subvert Russian oil prices by expanding the war effort through their mid-east allies, Iran in particular, but that would require both restricting Israel's access to Syria's airspace, while at the same time supplying more arms to Iran. At the moment, Israel's intervention in Syria helps block Iranian aid to Lebanon and Yemen. But if Russia takes this route, things will escalate in the middle east and oil prices will rise again, making it nearly impossible to artificially lower the value. Russia can also began arming its contacts in Latin America, which will force the US to began conducting military operations there, which will also impact oil prices. There are other ways Russia can expand this effort besides direct action on the part of their military on its eastern European neighbors

270. Angela Merkel was actually the one who kept Russia in check by insisting that Ukraine would not be admitted into NATO. All Biden had to

do was follow suit. But instead, he left the decision up to Ukraine. Had he decided for them(pledge not to admit them), Ukraine could have saved face, and at the same avoid having to face the prospect of looking as though they are intimidated by Russia for the sake of averting war.

271. If you haven't followed the last 20 years of US foreign policy, sure we can all look back in hindsight and say Putin would have done it anyway. This is ultimately the the goal of provocation, once the subject reacts, all the precipitating factors have no real relevancy on the matter, since the damage is already done. This "he would have done it anyway" is what Tony Blair and GW Bush tried to use in reference to Saddam Hussein to justify the involvement in Iraq. You have to remember Putin's policy on Ukraine didn't become an urgent matter until after 2008, when George W Bush declared NATO's intension to admit Ukraine and Georgia into the alliance. And this was actually to the dismay of other NATO countries like Germany and France, who considered this pledge as needlessly provoking Russia. Not only did they consider such a pledge seriously problematic, but also numerous foreign policy experts in this country, seeing that all that does is poke the bear. Now come 2011, when President Obama continues to assert disastrous US/NATO foreign policy by instigating a civil war in Libya. This is when NATO expansion into eastern Europe became problematic and continued insistence by the US that Ukraine join NATO only drew Ukraine further upon the ire of Russia. This is why we need a third party. Republicans are too adamant on direct military confrontation with foreign countries, while the democrats, as is clearly the case, feel compelled to instigate wars within foreign countries. Its so obvious at this point.

272. After 1991, most Ukrainians never wanted any problems with Russia or Russian speakers living in their own country, hence why they voted 3 either pro-Russian or native Russian speakers to presidency. This was for the sake of quelling any discord. They just want to live their life. Its a small minority of nationalists in Ukraine that have maintained that anti-Russian perspective. That was not the status quo there. It is the US that is over-committing to these minority of violent separatists in other countries, arming them, helping them conduct coups, and destabilizing the country as a whole for their own political interests. The democrats have now done this twice. Its as if the Republicans are natural invaders, while the democrats are natural instigators. This has to stop. Most Ukrainians right now are trying to get to safety. They don't want to die in glory.

273. Trump is done. His last statement was the nail in the coffin. Its one thing to try and placate a foreign leader, but to "approve" of a direct military action again a smaller country. That is something else. That is not conciliatory at all, that is basically siding with them on aggression. The democrats have shown that they are willing to give some ground to Mitt

Romney because of his warnings on Russia years back, and that is likely who republicans will rally behind....that is, if they are trying to win the next election.

274. A global arms race is underway and there will be no way to convince nations otherwise, all thanks to the US and now Russia.

275. Russians historically don't consider themselves ethnically different from Ukrainians. Yet, this outlook has been a source of contention throughout east Slavic history, where Ukrainian nationalists have insisted that such is not the case. And this is largely due to the fact that Ukrainians have developed their own language and culture, irrespective of their genetic link to Russians and Belarusians. They also want Russians to respect this, since it is the case that Russians even while they insist on unity among all east Slavs, have also tried throughout history to force Russian culture and language on the entire east Slavic demographic. Belarusians, Ukrainians, and Russians all share an ancestral link going back 9th century Kievan Rus.

276. The whole point of NATO was to constrain Germany and Japan militarily, as well as the Soviet-communist expansion. That is out the window now. Once Germany develops its military capability to full capacity, they will either leave NATO or call all the shots. Seeing that they are probably resentful of the US for undermining their economy and diplomatic efforts with Russia, they will likely pay in kind by sending troops to Yemen, something the Saudis will certainly be grateful for

277. Its really pathetic. We have been pushing this "get tough with Russia" all this time, only to piss our pants when Russia finally pulls out the nukes. That makes us look even more pathetic and comical than had we simply applied "appeasement for the sake of avoiding war." from the start. Now there's basically a small country fending off Russia with their bare-hands, protecting the whole world, while the US and NATO are sitting in the background shaking in their boots.

278. How about thinking about the prospect of WWIII before it starts??? This is why we have diplomacy. This is why we don't insult world leaders to make ourselves look strong!! This is why we compromise!!

279. I just don't understand the approach of letting it get to this point when it could so easily be avoided. Even now, if the US doesn't want this to escalate, all they have to do is refuse to admit Ukraine into NATO and just like that it could be over. What is the harm in doing so that keeps this from happening. It appeases Putin? People point to WWII and Hitler, without realizing that this standing around is what helped Hitler. In fact, WWII

may have been avoided if France and England simply attacked the German mainland from the start. Just like now as the EU, NATO, and the US sit back, doing this exact same thing back in 1939 is what allowed Hitler to run amok all over Europe. Because for all intents and purposes, France and England's hesitation was applied for the exact same reason it is being applied now, to stop a war that has already started from escalating.

280. Of course one is going to warn of provocation, seeing that such provocation can lead to an aggressive response. But once aggression ensues, and the person has made up his mind to act out, the situation may now require physically apprehending the person. Its like a school shooter who has dealt with years of bullying and decides to go after his classmates. One could have encouraged being nice to the student over the years, so that he does not one day snap. But when that advice was ignored and the student does snap and starts shooting, it becomes too late to be nice. At that point he needs to be physically apprehended.

281. He doesn't want Ukraine to join NATO, which is why he went straight to the capital to take out Zelensky and have him replaced with a pro-Russian administration. He even called for the Ukrainian military to take over Kiev. He may have thought there was more anti-Zelensky components in Ukraine than he has come to realize. Zelensky made a lot of enemies with his anti-corruption policies on Oligarchs and the Judicial system, and because of that, Putin probably thought that a forceful change in government would have been swift. But he thought wrong. He also thought NATO would provide Ukraine with nuclear weapons, seeing that the US pulled out of a nuclear treaty with Russia in 2019.

282. This country historically just don't see how inhumane it is to goad a nation into a war they cannot win, promise to have their back, and then proceed to sit back and watch it unfold in the comfort of your living rooms. That is not anti-war. That is called instigating. Maybe this is just so embedded into American psyche that it has become second nature.

283. Putin must not read history or has a rose-colored view of it. This east Slavic unification has been tried time and time again by Russia, but the same problem always arises--the issue of language and culture. The article didn't even mention language. If Putin's plan is to Russianize Ukraine, he, just as the tsars and the general secretaries of the Soviet Union did, will run into the same problem--Ukraine will never give up their language. It will never happen. That will always be the central theme of anti-Russian outlooks in Ukraine. If Putin really wanted to lean Ukraine in the direction of being more friendly to Russia, all he needed to do was agree to support Ukrainian language mandates for Ukraine, but instead he backs separatist Russophiles there with arms. By doing that, all he does is reinforce this

historical suppression of Ukrainian language. Russia had an opportunity to support Ukraine's 2019 bill that prioritized Ukrainian as the official state language, but Russia instead complained to the Council of Europe that it violated human rights. No Russian has ever figured how to get around the language barrier between Ukrainians and Russians.

284. Russia will likely lean more heavily on Africa, the middle east, and Latin America, increasing arms sales to those places in exchange for political and media influence. If Russia does pull back on this current conflict, they will almost certainly look to these countries to help them revamp their image.

285. It is bad news for Putin if the FSB is willing to correspond with Ukrainian officials and give them a heads up on plans originating from the Kremlin. This is history repeating itself in Russia. The Tsarist empire refused to end Russia's involvement in World War I as the people of Russia were starving--which led to the overthrow of the tsars. And much like now, Russia refusing to end invasion of Ukraine as the people in Russia suffer economically, could easily lead to an overhaul of the current system of government.

286. After Putin takes over Ukraine, the west may look to orchestrate a deal with Russia that they pay reparations to Ukrainian refugees and citizens, in exchange for having some sanctions lifted(such as reinstating some Russian banks back into the SWIFT banking system). This would also allow the west to justify not putting an embargo on Russian oil and gas, since now being obligated to pay reparations to Ukrainians, Russia would need the income from oil and gas exports to meet the obligation. This way the west looks as though they care about Ukrainians and at the same time are able to continue relying on Russian energy exports.

287. US/NATO's only goal was to instigate, and not intervene. Very calculated move and sooo typical of their foreign policy. And now they are trying to salvage any semblance of honor by sending arms to Ukraine, which will only prolong Russian aggression in the area and further devastate Ukraine. And seeing that they will not protect Ukraine's airspace, NATO's actions even now are a continuation of their instigating, as leaving Ukraine's airspace defenseless almost negates the point of providing arms because without the higher ground, Ukraine ultimately has no chance. Zelensky knows this, which is why he is repeatedly requesting airspace defense. Meanwhile, the US continues to buy Russian oil and gas, allowing Russia to finance the conflict. There is a clear pattern here where the goal seems to be to keep Russia angry at Ukraine without that anger spreading to other parts of the world, as opposed to simply complying with Russia's demands and stopping the bloodshed and

preventing a nuclear war. The US could have ended this by refusing to admit Ukraine into NATO, which actually allows Ukraine to save face and Russia to pull out. The only sacrifice is that it looks like the US is deferring to Russia. Seems like a small inconvenience in exchange for saving millions of lives. But the US would not do this. What gives? Of course, one can try using the "Russia would have done it anyway" argument, but that opens a nasty door of pre-emptive justification that everyone gets to walk through. Russia could have taken over Georgia and Ukraine back in 2008 if they wanted to, or even further back in 1990s. It is pretty clear that this is all about Ukraine joining NATO.

288. Russians historically have been taught that the 1654 Treaty of Pereyaslav between Ukraine and Russia was the official re-unification of east Slavic peoples and the Rus lands. But Ukrainians argue that when Bohdan Khmelnytsky signed the agreement in 1654, it was only for the sake of Russia protecting Ukraine from Tatar and Polish raids..... that Ukraine even under that agreement was still a sovereign race and country. The former outlook is typical Russian intellectual discourse and has never changed, even after 1991 when Ukraine declared independence, and even in 2000 when Russia signed an agreement to further recognize Ukraine's independence. Look at Mexico. They still believe that Texas belongs to them, but yet this outlook does not give credence to any idea that they plan on taking it back anytime soon. Why? Because our relations with Mexico are stable, much like Ukraine's relations with Russia prior to 2003 were for all intents and purposes stable.

289. Of course, a re-unification of all the Rus lands has been the longstanding goal of the Russian epoch. Much like Israel historically has a longstanding goal of gathering all the Jews back to Israel and rebuilding the temple, regardless of other factors. Another example is America's "manifest destiny", where they feel it was their god-given right to claim as much of the American continent as possible. We can argue that most nations have a doctrine or a narrative that supports some form of hegemony and expansion on their part, but yet this does not justify a provocational approach that would only help those nations justify pursuing such ambitions.

290. The US only buys 5% of Russia's crude oil and none of its gas. However, it does show some willingness on the part of the US to punish Russia for their aggression and crimes in Ukraine. But looking to other sources to make up for the loss and help stabilize the oil market may not be etched in stone, as Venezuela and Iran are heavily influenced by Russia and any leverage derived will be used to maximize any advantage they can accrue, such as in the case of Iran when it comes to nuclear talks with the US. They may threaten to keep oil prices high if they do not get their way in

this regard. Iran wants to sell their oil on the international markets and with this reliance from the west, they may look to both regain access to the international oil markets and at the same time continue their uranium enrichment program, seeing that nuclear disarmament did nothing for Ukraine. And the US should be careful because Saudi Arabia is watching closely, and Biden has already stated an intent to completely withdraw US intervention in Yemen, and also investigate the Crown Prince over the death of Khashoggi. The US is now pursing help from Iran, when Saudi Arabia could have easily agreed to sell Iranian Oil in exchange for Iran backing off supplying Houthi militants, an issue that the US/Iran nuclear deal has not addressed. If Biden is serious about removing US involvement from Yemen, then any new nuclear talks with Iran should address and settle the ongoing proxy war in Yemen.

291. It seems like a double edged sword. If the EU restricts itself from Russian oil, the less they can supply to Ukraine since Russia will likely cut off Ukraine's access to the gas reserves in the Dnipro-Donetsk basin and the Carpathian region in western Ukraine and other places. Once Ukraine loses the airfields and the gas fields, the war is pretty much over. Without a fuel source, there is no way to use explosives, drive vehicles, tanks, fly aircraft, etc. The middle east can increase production to help offset the rise in oil prices, but this attempt could easily be offset by Ukraine's increasing demand for arms and fuel to stave off the Russians. And I doubt Poland will allow themselves to be the only country that takes up the slack by tapping more into their own gas reserves to supply Ukraine.

292. For years Venezuela has been trying to take their gold reserves held in western countries and sell them off to eastern countries like Russia and China. But this was predicated on the idea that unrest was brewing in western Europe and the US, and not in places like Russia and China. Seeing that Russia is in a crisis, I wonder if Venezuela may shift their focus diplomatically. Venezuela and many Latin American countries do not trust the United States. The CIA has used that region as a playground for decades, backing separatists, helping them stage coups against any administration perceived to be hostile to the US. Hugo Chavez believed that the CIA was giving all the leaders of Latin America cancer, which is part of the reason why he threatened to cut off all oil sales to the US. Venezuela's relations with the US hasn't recovered since. But if Maduro sees the US and western Europe as a safe bet for the country's gold holdings, then he may be willing to shift to a more cooperative engagement with the US on the oil front, that is, if the US is willing to lift sanctions. But as far as selling his oil for US dollars again, I doubt it because it is likely that Venezuela's friendship with Putin is heavily based in Venezuela not selling their oil for US dollars.

293. I don't know if Venezuela has any gold bars stored in Russia, but if they do, they can kiss it goodbye because Putin will have no choice but to nationalize all privately held assets in Russia. Venezuela, if they can repair their relationship with the United States, and grow their tourism sector again, they may be able to climb out of poverty. A big reason for that disrepair is corruption and crony capitalism. Oil execs taking the profits and running, as opposed to investing it back into the company and improving working conditions and safety.

294. First the US gave NATO countries the green light to send fighter jets to Ukraine in exchange for a backfill of F16s. Now Poland is giving the US the green light to send their MIG-29 fighter jets to Ukraine from German territory. Sounds like a game of hot potato, with Germany being set up as the fall guy.

295. Its hard to predict Putin's next move. I know many reference Hitler as a guide, but some of the reasoning for Hitler's military incursions was motivated by getting access to oil. Germany was a top industrial nation, but it was one that could only be sustained by oil imported from the east. Perhaps Germany felt stifled in its attempt to be an independent strong nation because of this and sought to fix the problem through conquest of oil rich land. Hence why Germany basically annexed Romania in 1940 for its oil fields, understanding full well that if they didn't, it would have been impossible for the Germans to have adequate energy supplies to deploy their war machine. Of course, since England and France declared war on Germany, Hitler had every reason to believe that those other nations could attempt to gain strategic control over the oil wells in the region. So it makes sense that Germany strategically felt the need to venture further east in order to secure more oil. But with Russia and Putin, that is not the case. They have all the oil and energy they need for their industry and war machine. What would be the reason for Putin/Russia to venture further west when they are already sitting on the vital resources like oil and grain in the east. Russian aggression westward in recent history seemed to be more geared towards getting access to western(mostly german) innovation through espionage tactics and information leaks, but that doesn't require moving tanks across Europe. Russia's and China's economy has certainly benefited from acquiring western innovation. So there is a chance that over the long term if Russia is isolated from the west, Germany will likely develop another set of technologically profound weaponry that will compel Russia to try and acquire the blueprints for the new technology.

296. It seems like a game of hot potato, but I doubt Germany will let the US fly those jets from their country into Ukraine, regardless if its a US air base. There is still some measure of plausible deniability that the US can apply there if they try to convince Russia that the jets technically came

from Germany. However, the US doesn't seem too intent on providing this type of direct aid to Ukraine anyway. Each NATO member nation doesn't want to be targeted by Russia and this is clearly why one is basically volunteering the other to do the job of getting fighter jets into Ukraine. Regardless, it is probably too late and by the time they finally get around to deploying jets to Ukraine, they will likely be shot down by Russian anti-aircraft

297. Ultimately the central presumption here is on how far Putin is willing to go. He is making no qualms about killing women and children, bombing schools and hospitals. Russia at this point (if they want to skip prolonged warfare) could probably detonate a nuclear bomb in Ukraine and simply turn the country into a lifeless buffer zone just to keep NATO at a safe distance from Russia's borders. And I do not think Ukraine is included in the policy of Mutually Assured Destruction

298. Venezuela releases American prisoners after negotiations with US. I think once the US resumes operations at the US embassy in Caracas, they may give an all clear for travel there. Detention without due-process was part of the US's travel warning on Venezuela, as the US hasn't had an ambassador there since 2010. That will change soon.

299. This is not good. Biden's aggressive rhetoric with Putin had massive implications, as we see. Now, his combative rhetoric with the Crown Prince is already starting to backfire. The US is well aware of the importance of our relations with Saudi Arabia, and if this is the beginning of a strong rift between the US and Saudi Arabia, it will have an ENORMOUS negative impact on the US economy. This is something that could send gold through the roof. Saudi Arabia has so much clout that it was once classified how Saudi Arabia was abusing their position with the US, helping Saudis accused of crimes in the US evade the US Judicial process by extraditing them back to Saudi Arabia. These crimes included manslaughter, child pornography, and rape. Now Biden enters office by taking a hardline stance against the Crown Prince and threatening to prosecute him over the Khashoggi killing. He also vowed to cut US involvement in Yemen, and at the same time continue to ignore the Yemen issue in nuclear talks with Iran. His approach on these issues could lead to Saudi Arabia cutting ties with the US. Many don't realize that if Saudi doesn't sell their oil for US Dollars, there would be no global demand for US dollars, and hence there would be no way we could the print infinite amounts of currency that we are currently printing. This "snub" is about more than Ukraine, and I do not think Saudi Arabia fears any embargo that the US could try and threaten. This discord is a direct result of Biden's combative stance. The US-Saudi alliance is a critical alliance and the US better hope that the Saudis are not planning to look elsewhere for military

assurances.

300. Whenever the US has wanted to remove someone from power, the standard modus operandi was to instigate unrest in the country of interest by simply urging or I assume paying provocateurs to escalate public protests. When the authorities would finally give in to using violence to put down the unrest, separatist groups would then use that violent response as a platform for recruitment, pointing out how oppressive their government is, and the need for the government to be overthrown. This would usually be followed by an inflow of funds and other supplies from the US to the separatist groups. There have been protests in Russia and I am almost certain that CIA operatives there have been active in using any means to escalate them.

301. ISIS's involvement in Syria, and the fact that the OPCW had evidence that both Assad and ISIS were carrying out chemical attacks in Syria, made to where Assad could apply plausible deniability. Russia and the US do this relentlessly. However, Russia has been completely dishonest throughout much of this ordeal and cannot be taken seriously. The US on the other hand knew in advance that Russia would invade in Ukraine. So obviously, the US has far greater credibility at the moment than Russia does.

302. It is quite astounding that ISIS is still in operation after years of airstrikes by US and Russian forces in Iraq and Syria. And with 50 million dollars in reserve, they have more than enough to sustain their current apparatus, which includes a council responsible for strategy and succession when a leader is killed. There is no telling how extensive their program has become, even amid their dwindling numbers. But I am certain they are still recruiting anti-Assad rebels in Syria and disgruntled Sunnis in Iraq. Now with Russia invading Ukraine, they could possibly recruit fighters from eastern Europe, or even attempt to travel there and join the Ukrainian insurgency.

303. All the more likely that ISIS fighters are on the way to Ukraine as well, likely to help Ukrainian insurgents conduct subterranean warfare against both Russian and Syrian fighters now.

304. Years of horrible foreign policy has finally caught up to the United States. And, now with the Ukraine debacle, the US may lose its grip on the ethanol market as well. Without Russia's fertilizers, corn yields will plummet in the United States, leading to less surplus inventory for ethanol production, which will force farmers in the west to relegate much of the corn for human consumption. Meanwhile, Russia will by default be left

with a glut from wheat and corn production, which will provide them an opportunity to become leaders in ethanol production. This would also provide a possible recovery scenario for the ruble, should Russia price their ethanol in rubles. The US will not be able to lean on its ethanol production without fertilizer from Russia.

305. It is not official, but if the deal goes through, the US may look to throw the book at Saudi Arabia by investigating the Crown Prince for the Khashoggi murder and for possible war crimes committed in Yemen. This would be followed by the US lobbying for an international embargo on Saudi Oil. And if the US leans diplomatically towards Iran, they could persuade them to block the strait of Hormuz just for the purpose of stifling Saudi oil exports.

306. In many cases, the only winning strategy that a smaller number of insurgents can apply against an incoming larger military force is to resort to surprise attacks and ambushes by hiding in places where they would least be expected. Unfortunately, the only way to achieve such is by hiding behind soft targets i.e. schools, hospitals, libraries, and then launching ambush attacks from those positions, which only compromises the safety of civilians in the area. Hamas uses this tactic in Gaza, ISIS/Anti-Assad rebels probably used this in Syria, the Pro-Russian separatists likely applied the tactic during the Donbas conflict, and I'm pretty sure some of the Ukrainian militia groups are doing the same thing in Ukraine....and then, just like the jihadists in the middle east, the Ukrainian militias are also taking pictures/videos of the carnage and publishing it to further vilianize the enemy in the eyes of the world. It is an effective strategy and works across the board, as it elicits international sympathy and keeps the flow of army and money coming into the insurgency.

307. The US and the west is going to be blamed regardless, and the world is already beginning to distrust the US. Saudi Arabia is a prime example, as they are flirting with the possibility to selling their oil for Chinese Yuan. That is unprecedented. Cheering from the sidelines makes no difference. Even Zelensky has stated amidst all this outpouring of moral support from the west, that while Russia is to be blamed for civilian casualties, the west will share in the responsibility: "While Russians are to blame for the killings, responsibility is shared by those who for 13 days in their Western offices haven't been able to approve an obviously necessary decision, who didn't save our cities from these bombs and missiles – although they can." He has been more outspoken than anyone as far as implicating the west and NATO for civilian deaths in Ukraine. And now he has flat out said that Ukraine will not join NATO, upending any chance that NATO will intervene for a non-member state. If NATO wouldn't intervene for an applicant, all the more likely they won't intervene for a non-candidate.

This is the worst foreign policy disaster in US history and it is already coming back to haunt us where it hurts, at our alliance with Saudi Arabia, something I have been warning about for years.

308. It won't be Russia that ends up in the worst of economic ruin, as they have all the natural resources, perhaps a greater variety than any country in the world. Russia has never needed to venture into western Europe; it has always been the west that has tried to come to them--Germany(WWI and II), France(Napoleonic wars), NATO(eastward expansion), Poland(Polish-Lithuanian commonwealth), Sweden(under Charles XII), etc....all these countries historically have tried their hand at taking over Russia because of the vast wealth of natural resources there. So, it is the west that is going to suffer the most from this war that they instigated. And if anything, the repeat of post-WWI will occur on Germany, as they will likely suffer the most, should Russia decide to halt gas and oil exports to the country for the mere sake of spite. In this scenario, Germany will be forced to compete with the US for mid-east influence and oil, which will once again make Germany the black sheep of western Europe.

309. Germany is the country that Russia needs to worry about, as Germans will choose death over starvation and will likely have no problem marching through Poland into Ukraine, even into Russia, just to get the resources and stop the hunger. I doubt Russian nuke threats will deter them. The US, on the other hand, only challenges Russia in the movies.

310. The Congolese President could bring peace to Ukraine and Russia by using the Congo's cobalt reserves to his advantage. As the US fades from international affairs, this document first lays out the historical backdrop of the US financial system and how the US is setting up its own economic downfall. The document then explains how a formula involving China, Germany, Russia, Ukraine, and the Democratic Republic of Congo(DRC) could orchestrate a peace plan in which Russia would be allowed to mine cobalt in the Congo in exchange for Russia providing military support to the DRC and allowing the DRC president Felix Tshisekedi to mediate for peace on the Russia/Ukraine crisis. China would continue to develop infrastructure in the Congo, while Germany would provide to the DRC arms purchased from Ukraine, in exchange for building a dam to develop green hydrogen with the option of purchasing cobalt directly from either Chinese or Russian mining companies in the Congo.

311. Tesla has been leading the crusade in pushing for low to no cobalt cathode materials for EV batteries. The only promising prospect seems to be high nickel cathode materials. Still and all, the US is not a major extractor of nickel and will likely remain relegated to foreign reliance on the material. The difference between nickel and cobalt in terms of US

import is that it would be easier for the US to secure imports of nickel from Canada, than cobalt from central Africa.

312. At the moment all those substitutes have yet to match cobalt when it comes to battery life and cycle life, both of which are imperative for US defense systems, prolonged missions, and long distance EV. While domestic/home use of cobalt free batteries may be feasible in the near term, the lower energy density of cobalt free batteries will leave our most critical industries having to rely for some time on batteries that have adequate cobalt. If China and Russia gain control over much of the world's cobalt reserves, US national defense will be economically reliant on those countries for the sustainment of their own defense capabilities. In this case, China and Russia would have more leverage in deterring reckless US foreign policy.

313. Biden says Putin 'cannot remain in power.' Putin can use what Biden said to justify his policy, which is why the White House moved quickly to clarify what Biden said. The kremlin can point to Biden's statement and say "look, the US had always sought regime change in Russia, and this why we had to take such drastic action to keep Ukraine from joining NATO" Of course that is not true. Biden is obviously referring to the post invasion circumstances and war crimes committed by Russia against Ukraine for his sentiment that Putin should not be in power. However, being president requires consideration on how words may be construed to someone else's advantage. Many point to Russia's invasion of Ukraine as something that had always been in the works because of the fact that it actually happened. None of those recent developments just prior to February 24, 2022 had been taken into consideration as the primary catalyst. So it is likely because of the fact that Biden said what he said, Putin will argue that regime change in Russia had always been the agenda of the US, irrespective of any recent developments that could justify Biden's statement.

314. Obama told Gaddafi to flat out "step down." Not only that, the Obama administration also recognized the rebels in Syria as the legitimate governing authority of the country. If that is not regime change policy, then what do you call it? Libya and Syria shows that the US clearly has a open regime change policy. The US denying this in lieu of the Russian invasion comes down to nothing more than cowardice, unless one wants to argue that Putin is not as bad as Assad and Gaddafi.

315. US officials hesitant because it opens a Pandora's box. No international statue of limitations on war crimes, not even for the ones committed by the US in the middle east. -see Wikileaks, collateral murder video. Another entity aside from the US would have to step up on the war

crimes issue.

316. The credibility factor comes into play in my opinion. Russia's credibility is so shot, that it becomes nearly impossible to point out anything that could serve their narrative and supersede the egregiousness of their invasion of Ukraine. The damnatory implications of the overarching theme(Russia unjustified invasion of Ukraine) takes precedent over the smaller aspects within it, such that any factors that contravene those damnatory implications are easily zapped. Within the Ukraine/Russia dynamic, there is no way to argue in favor of Russia, even if there could be evidence that indicates some unscrupulous actions on the part of Ukrainian fighters. This is due to the fact that the incriminating quality of Russia's actions which defines the overarching scenario gives even more credence to the fact that Ukraine is rightfully defending themselves from an unjustified invasion, which serves the case that it is highly unlikely that Ukraine is employing unscrupulous methods. The Russia/US dynamic, however, that is a different story. And many are trying to take the incriminating quality of Russia's actions against Ukraine and use that to absolve the US of their egregious geopolitical actions in the last few decades. Nice try, but the US is not the victim here. Ukraine is. The US is in fact the instigator of all of this.

317. NATO admitted the Baltic states in 2004, and Russia had no problem with it. At the 2008 NATO Summit in Romania, however, Putin stated emphatically at the summit "The emergence of a powerful military bloc at our borders will be seen as a direct threat to Russian security." The US followed up at that same summit in 2008 with: "NATO welcomes Ukraine's and Georgia's Euro Atlantic aspirations for membership in NATO. We agreed today that these countries will become members of NATO.", Obviously Ukraine joining NATO was the primary flashpoint for Russia, and even back in 2008, France and Germany were also opposed to bringing those countries into NATO. Why? Because its a European security issue. But of course, what does that matter to the US? Europe is not their backyard.

318. It is bemusing that Putin is telling Russians that Ukraine with their Jewish President if full of Nazis. That takes a page from BLM back in 2015 saying the US with its black president is a racist country full of white supremacists.

319. " Anthony's Treaty" is by far the best source for understanding and disassociating Nazism from pro-Ukrainian perspectives. Along with investigating Ukraine's history, while blaming the US and NATO for Russia's invasion of Ukraine, this book distinguishes the controversial Azov battalion's Nazi origins from the overarching framework of

Ukrainian culture, by way of acknowledging the fact that much of the Azov battalion's original Neo-nazi membership is comprised of native Russian-speakers from eastern Ukraine. They are not products of Ukrainian culture in the western parts of Ukraine, where the majority of native Ukrainian speakers reside. The book also explains how in Ukraine, the propagation of both Soviet-era nostalgia and leaders like Joseph Stalin, who was the main perpetrator of the holodomor(murder and starvation of millions of Ukrainians), can give rise to counter-extremism such as Nazism. Because Azov was part and parcel of a largely de-centralized Ukrainian resistance to the pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine during the 8 year civil war (there were many private militias fighting the separatists), the Ukrainian government basically annexed the paramilitary group, as well as other private militias, into the Ukrainian army...all for the sake of a more organized resistance to separatist and Russian forces in the Donbas region. At the same time, the Ukrainian army did not assume their ideology. It was the other way around. The private militias were indoctrinated and consigned into true Ukrainian nationalism. Now, it is true that the Azov were instrumental in helping Ukraine, and are at the same time, highly skilled, tactical and pose a real danger if they continue to uphold their Nazi ideology and resist full integration into the Ukrainian army. But I highly doubt Zelensky, nor much of the native Ukrainian-speaking populations of Ukraine would tolerate it. Besides, the Azov has already begun to disavow Nazi perspectives.

320. Society is still largely patriarchal and misogynistic. Many women who support abortion are not in favor of killing babies. In fact, they don't view legislation surrounding abortion in terms of what happens to the unborn child. The central core of their argument is that men have no right to make the choice on what a woman should do with something that is directly under her jurisdiction. Women feel its their choice alone on what happens to the unborn child. However, with propagation of race in the US over the last 6-7 years, much of the patriarchy is now able to use "race" to justify overturning roe vs wade. In Alito's draft opinion on abortion, he references race on numerous occasions to argue against abortion. He describes how many of the early proponents of abortion were also aligned with eugenics research which targeted the African demographic and others deemed problematic to the health of the human population. Alito also underscored how a large percentage of aborted fetuses are mostly African American. It is very likely that he certainly used race to justify his perspective on abortion. Another factor is the fact that the majority of Supreme court justices are Catholic, which obviously played a huge role. Now many are wondering if Ruth Bader Ginsburg should have retired before the congressional elections in 2014, when the democrats had control of the Senate. This would have allowed Obama to replace her with a progressive Supreme Court Justice. But obviously, this didn't happen

and when the Republicans took control of the Senate in 2014, McConnell made sure to subvert the chance of the approval of any nomination to the Supreme Court made by Obama.

321. Communism is now pretty much confirmed to rise up in America now that abortion will no longer be protected by the federal government. The book "The Fall of the US Dollar: A Second Coming of the Non-aggression Pact" explains how communism is one of the best constructs for women's rights. In east Germany, where socialism was applied, abortion was fully legal and women were not bound to the husband's authority. Now that women will feel alienated by the federal government in the US, they may turn to communist movements in America that will certainly uphold abortion rights.

322. Arming and legitimizing the established governments in west Africa will be a key solution to stopping the spread of ISIS in Africa. The number of killings that the African ISIS militants account for is staggering, and brings ever more shame to the continent. Solving this problem is beyond the US government's capacity, however. .....Seeing that the US has been more adept at subverting established governments around the world, not sustaining them.

323. There are radicals on all sides. The buffalo shooter convinced himself that this was racial self-defense, as well as retaliation for the Waekusha massacre carried out by a black nationalist who expressed a desire to harm whites on social media because of the Rittenhouse verdict. The buffalo shooter had the name of a Waukesha victim on his gun. It won't be long before a black nationalist goes out and carries out a mass attack against whites in retaliation. It will happen. No question. This is how separatism prevails. Over time, each side will began to feel justified in their attacks. People who are not racist now will eventually become so as this radical racial back and forth begins to put each person in self-preservation mode, including those who don't view themselves as exclusivist. This will go back and forth until people began to realize that one party cannot be singled out, but its obvious people in this country would rather see all the different groups hate each other, hence replacement theory and critical race theory, both of which only incite hatred.

324. The division and unrest being cultivated by the media is also an issue for mass shootings. Even if you restrict AR-15s, the unrest being perpetrated by these extreme political perspectives will just have people going to other methods of violence like bombings which can take out hundreds at one time.

325. Russia's intentions are obvious. The Nicaraguan president is strong supporter of Russia and its geopolitics. Not to mention, Nicaragua is under US sanctions at the moment and knows that Russia's interest in the region gives his country a lot of political leverage. Most likely. Russia TV host hailed the Nicaragua's invite of Russian troops as Russia's chance to balance the scales and place missiles close to the United States. "If U.S. missile systems can almost reach Moscow from Ukrainian territory, it is time for Russia to deploy something powerful closer to U.S. cities,"

326. Ukraine is going to be pressured into ceding the breakaway regions to the separatists and Crimea to Russia. Reports about Ukraine winning the war was to keep morale high, but now Ukrainian officials are admitting that the sheer size of the Russian army and the amount of equipment the Russians have is overwhelming. They are demanding more artillery from the US, but some of the weapons sent are already being sold on the black market. The critical issue right now for Ukraine is orchestrating prisoner swaps and getting Ukrainians that have been deported to Russia back into Ukraine. Peace in Ukraine doesn't just hinge on Ukraine ceding territory, but also on what Ukraine does with Viktor Medvedchuk, a close friend of Putin. If something happens to him in Ukraine's custody, Ukraine will a hard time setting up prisoner swaps. God forbid Russia transfer many of its detainees to the breakaway states in the Donbas, where 2 UK fighters have already been sentenced to death.

327. There is also 500,000 tons of lithium oxide there as well. Ukraine may have to cut its losses at some point. They took a gamble, trusting the United States, whom may be now trying to get Ukraine to cede territory to the Russians after initially goading them to stand up to Russia. In a certain sense, Ukraine has won. But they are not going to totally defeat the Russian army and take back Crimea and the Donbas. That is a pipe dream being pushed by the media, especially when you consider the fact that the US won't even send Ukraine the weapons and equipment they actually need to win. So if one is not going to supply Ukraine with the weapons they need to win, how can one expect them to win? Justice? Justice never prevails. Just ask the Native Americans, the Palestinians, the Iraqis, and the Crimean Tatars. None of those of those people will ever push out the occupiers and get their land back.

328. Ukraine has admitted they are outgunned, suffering 1000 causalities a day in the Donbas region. And they have already ceded Mariupol to the Russians after saying repeatedly that they would not do such a thing. Circumstances in Luhansk is heading for a similar outcome where Ukraine won't have a choice but to surrender. This will also happen in Donetsk. The Russians are surrounding the Ukrainian forces and cutting off their supply lines, restricting their access to basic necessities like food and

water and electricity. Without those items, the Ukrainian forces won't be able to communicate nor be able to sustain the energy needed to resist the Russian advance

329. ISIS will become more emboldened, especially after seeing how western media is praising Ukraine's resistance to Russia's invasion, while still referring to those who resisted the US military's illegal invasion of Iraq as terrorists.

330. The Supreme Court on Friday overturned the landmark Roe v. Wade ruling. This is where critical race theory backfired. Alito basically used it in his draft opinion to justify overturning Roe vs wade, citing that many of the early proponents of abortion were also proponents of eugenics, which heavily targeted African Americans. Race and misogyny cannot be tackled at the same time. Remember, the first feminist wave, the women's suffrage movement ran concurrent with abolitionist movement in 1830s, but was ultimately abandoned because when it came to African Americans, white men at that time still preferred to stay in line with the patriarchal framework by prioritizing the rights of men over women. Thus why the 15th amendment provided suffrage to black men, as opposed to everyone (Black men got the right to vote before white women). The women's suffrage movement ultimately wanted suffrage for everyone, and later became resentful that the voting rights of negro men were prioritized over theirs'. Now with Clarence Thomas, a black man, acting as ringleader for the conservative/christian nationalist movement, this whole race narrative has ironically become an achilles heel for many of the central democratic issues like women's rights and abortion. The hard-line conservatives are now coming to realize that CRT is useful tool to help them mask their misogyny, stifle women's rights, and rebuild the patriarchy as it existed back in late 19th century, early 20th century. Good luck getting rid of critical race theory now.

331. Anyone mad at Justice Clarence Thomas can thank Biden. Biden was the one who was most instrumental in suppressing other women and witnesses from coming forward and testifying against Clarence Thomas at the Senate committee hearing in 1991.

332. The Trump movement didn't really take off until Black Lives Matter started spreading like wildfire on social media. When that movement first started, it wasn't just about police brutality, it was also about castigating an entire race of people, and Facebook gave them a platform to really push it. People who held no real allegiance as far as race begin to see everything in their life in terms of black and white. From that point, anything that inconvenienced you did so because they hated your race. Even if you tried you hardest to avoid that perspective, the fact that it was being promoted

everywhere made you fall in line and conform to it. At the start of that movement, even the democrats were alarmed. Remember, BLM activists were disrupting Bernie sanders rallies!! The Trump movement was a reaction to that. Facebook was really feeding the fire at that time, posting news feeds that specifically sought to incite people against each other. Now seven years later, here is the result....we are on the verge of civil war. It will happen. That is not a conspiracy. You cannot have a society divided like this where people still have to compete for jobs, resources, etc. People will not be able to separate those pursuits or any obstacles they encounter along the way in trying to attain them from issues of race, gender, religion, etc. Scary times.

333. Anyone who criticized Obama was a considered a racist. So now I guess anyone who criticizes Clarence Thomas is a racist as well.

334. Of course not everyone who criticizes Obama is racist. However, that is not what the public was made to believe in the last years of his presidency and up unto now. This political climate left no room for dilenating in terms of pointing out Obama critics that were not racist and Obama critics that were. Of course now if the pressure really picks up, Clarence Thomas will have no trouble pulling out the race card again--all the more now that Obama was allowed to use it freely. Last time when Clarence Thomas was under scrutiny was in 1991. During that time when he was accused of sexual harassment, he immediately compared it to a modern day lynching and still has a vendetta against liberals. This is what astounds me about black conservatives. They initially get into that political ideology of not getting trapped in victim-hood and tell others not to play the victim, but will play the race card when it suits them. Talk about hypocrisy! Black conservatives don't realize the damage they cause when they do this. They kill their own credibility as a conservative and eliminate the possibility of ethnocentrism ever dying. Bottom line is that in many cases blacks, no matter their perspective, will pull out the race card when its convenient for them and downplay it when it isn't. Clarence Thomas, Michael Jackson, OJ Simpson all at one point insisted that race was not a factor, that is, until the adversity of public scrutiny came about.

335. The central issue surrounding abortion is that men are essentially making the decision for women. Women, comprising of both anti-abortion and pro-abortion outlooks, ultimately want to be the ones who judge whether or not abortion is right or wrong.....since it is their own body that is directly impacted. If this is the case, why not a separate all-women committee be established to decide on abortion issues. It seems very similar to how tribes pursue self-determination to decide their own codes and laws. They may agree with laws of another tribe, but usually prefer a situation where members of their own tribe are the ones deciding which

laws the tribe should live by.

336. Russia and Ukraine and the west have been exaggerating throughout the war. For example, the Associated Press estimated that the number killed in the theater strike in Mariupol was 600. Ukraine estimated it at 300. A survivor named Dmytro Velychko, who was actually there at the time of the blast and was later interviewed by The Economist confirmed in the interview that the numbers being pushed by the media and Ukraine was exaggerated and that the actual number was around 100. Obviously 1000 inside the mall that was struck is a gross exaggeration. No women or children in sight, barely any cars. No question people were killed, but there is no way 1000 people were inside at the time of the blast. Both sides at this point have to be urged to get to the negotiating table. Ukraine needs to cede territory in order to get this war to stop. Anyone who wishing for this war to continue is basically calling for more civilians to die in an endless prolonged war. Nations have to cut their losses. The Native Americans had to do it. The Palestinians had to do it, The Sunni Iraqis had to do it, and now the Ukrainians need to do it.

337. Its never ok to strike military targets near civilian areas.. Its not ok when Russia does it. Its not ok when Ukraine does. Its not ok when the US does it. Its not ok when Israel does it. Its not ok when Saudi Arabia does it. Were at a point in this war where both sides of the conflict are harming civilians by firing artillery into residential areas, and the only way to get it to stop is by compromise and ceding territory to Russia and the separatists. Anyone not in favor of that is in favor of more civilian death and WWIII. Spare us the virtue signaling and at least admit it.

338. Ok, while they're finding a way to do that more civilians will keep getting killed by Russian and Ukrainian forces. Ukraine cutting ties with the US and ceding territory to Russia and the separatists is the only solution to stop civilian death. I don't understand why so many want a course of action that will lead to even more carnage. If Ukraine compromises now, they still have 80% of their country. If they keep listening to the west, they will end up like the Native Americans and the Palestinians.

339. My solution is to have negotiations where Ukraine would cede territory to the separatists in exchange for the release of Ukrainian and foreign fighters as well as civilians currently detained by Russian and Separatist forces.

340. France and England actually made a formal declaration of war against Germany after Germany went into Poland. That alone gave Hitler every reason to believe that he needed to make a move against France and

England. And the only reason Hitler invaded the Soviet Union was because the Soviet Union actually violated the non-aggression pact first. In the secret protocol document which was part of the non-aggression pact, both Germany and Russia laid out exactly those areas of the Europe considered to be their respective spheres of influence. However, Russia overreached on Romania by attempting to grab Bucovina along with Bessarabia. Bukovina was not listed on the secret protocol agreement between Germany and the Soviet Union as an area desired by the Soviet Union, but the Soviets sought to seize it anyway. Hitler became suspicious and presumed that the Soviet Union could attempt to grab for more and take the oil fields in Romania, which would have doomed the German war effort. This is why Hitler decided to invade the Soviet Union. At that time, the only solution to stopping Hitler, after France and England declared war, was to invade the German mainland. Is that the solution to stopping Putin? Invading the Russian mainland. I highly doubt anyone will dare suggest that.

341. The problems began during Obama's last term. Police brutality was rampant during his administration, especially throughout his second term. It was insane! Magically, however, he was not blamed. The problems and political unrest began long before Trump was taken serious as a candidate for the presidency, and that's a fact!!

342. It was Trump who first decided to start arming the Ukrainians. See reports from 2017. Putin warned Trump that delivering weapons to a conflict zone "doesn't help peacekeeping efforts, but only worsens the situation." This is the problem with our political climate. Selective retention. Choosing to block out facts that don't align with views. In this case, arming the Ukrainians in the first place was a GOP objective. Obama never sent arms to Ukraine. I imagine this will cause heads to explode.

343. So it was ok to withhold arms to Ukraine under Obama in 2015 and wrong to supply arms to Ukraine under Trump in 2017?? But then not ok for Trump to withhold those arms to Ukraine in 2019 like the Democrats did in 2015?? This makes no sense. This is why we need a third party. The contrarianism is obvious.

344. Here is a fact check. The "UAVs, counter-mortar radars, night vision devices, medical supplies and 230 armored Humvee vehicles" pledged by the Obama administration are not weapons. "Arming someone" means providing them with weapons and ammunition, which is what Trump did for the Ukrainians and which is the point I am trying to make. I argued several times here that Trump played a huge role in escalating the conflict in Ukraine but that outlook confuses everything.

345. Not even the US presence in Syria could deter Erdogan. In fact, just before the US pulled troops out of Syria, Erdogan called up President Trump and told him flat out that he would launch strikes on the YPG(PKK terror offshoot) positions regardless of whether or not US troops would be in the area. Trump, without question, immediately conceded to Erdogan and withdrew US personnel. And later the US admitted that the YPG was the PKK--both a Turkey and US-recognized terror group. Turkey has stated emphatically that he will attack any nation where Kurdish militants take refuge. Right now, the Assad regime has been trying to provide a safe haven for the Kurdish militants, and this is something that Erdogan is not content with at all. He even attempted to block Finland and Sweden's membership process into NATO since both countries have been providing refuge for Kurdish militants. I think Erdogan is eager to prove how serious he is. Hopefully nations will listen to his concerns. As far as ISIS, Iran has been reporting that the US is taking captured ISIS fighters detained in Syria and relocating them to fight for the Ukrainians. Would not surprise me if this is true.

346. Russia doesn't have the software to distinguish HIMARS from grad rockets on its radar. This leaves Russia with a dilemma. Now Ukraine, along with HIMARS, can simply fire grad rockets from time to time and force Russia to fire more of their expensive air to air missiles that they would rather use against the HIMARS rockets. This will eventually drain Russia's supplies. Lucky for Ukraine, the west has given them a free pass to kill as many civilians as they want in the name of recapturing lost territory. Won't be long before ISIS and Hamas get the same license.

347. After a certain point, it does become wrong for a people to reclaim lost territory. After Russia pulled out of Kyiv, Ukraine should have conceded territory in the east for the sake of civilian lives. Would you support Native Americans going on the war path, trying to drive all non-native people off their long-standing habitat? Would you support Sunnis in Iraq going on the war path, trying to reclaim Iraq from the Shiites and at the same time drive US military out the country? In fact they are trying to do this now, but we call them terrorists. How about Palestinians doing the same in Israel against Israelis? Sure, you can argue that Ukraine has the right to reclaim lost territory, but how are their efforts different than ISIS or Hamas? You believe that ISIS should just concede to the illegal and unjustified US invasion, while Ukraine keep fighting Russia's unjustified invasion? This is a massive problem because it only fosters the justification platform. Now Hamas and ISIS can recruit on a thesis that they are no different than Ukraine. This is not good for the world at all.

348. The conflict actually began back in 2014(this is also when the ICC marks the beginning of the Ukraine/Russia conflict). And actually, before

the Russians ever started arming the separatists in eastern Ukraine, the Ukrainian army was bombing residential areas in Donetsk. Don't believe me? Read the Human Rights Watch report from 2014 documenting Ukrainian forces firing unguided grad rockets into residential areas in Donetsk, which is majority ethnic Russian. The report also conducted interviews with residents who said that there were no military or equipment in the areas struck by Ukrainian forces. Just keep in mind. This [report] is [from] July of 2014, a month before Russia decided to start arming the separatists so that they could defend themselves from Ukrainian shelling. Ukraine was launching missiles at Russian civilians. It was that very fact that triggered Russian intervention.

349. What I am saying is that this conflict is more complex than one side being "good" and the other side being "evil." And the only way to reach a resolution is to take into account all factors surrounding the conflict. If you don't, then all there will be in Ukraine is needless bloodshed. What you're doing is taking an emotive anti-intellectual approach, which is a hallmark of Nazism and warmongering. Hitler hated the intellectual outlook because it challenges the way people believe their justified to act. Please spare me the "would have done it anyway" outlook. Bush used that caveat to push into Iraq without evidence of Saddam having weapons of mass destruction. That "would have done it anyway" can be argued in so many cases and so many levels. Its a very destructive outlook to foster

350. That fact that the US can generation after generation convince the American public that their actions and policies overseas are justified is really extraordinary. The American public never gets it right in real time, always after the fact, when its too late. And--to think--[democrats] complain about republican nationalism. Look in the mirror. The democrats are either more nationalistic than they give themselves credit for, or are just suffering from Trump derangement syndrome where they have to align themselves with any perspective they feel distances themselves from Trump, regardless of what it is. Well newsflash, you're more inline with Trump than ever, because if he gets back in--in 2024, he is likely sending US troops and bombers to Ukraine to face Russia head on. Then what? The war will become bad when Trump begins to support it? The TDS is a real phenomenon. When Trump was president, I was under the impression that the democrats were the solution to bad US foreign policy. Boy was I wrong. You guys are in fact the opposite at the moment, which is why both the democrats and the republicans should not be in office.

351. American foreign policy is a disaster. This has been true when republicans are in office and when democrats are in office. But each party seems to think this fact magically disappears when their party holds office.

At the moment, the democrats have managed to forget the Iraq war, the hundreds of thousands of civilians killed by US forces, as well the atrocities committed by NATO in Libya and Syria and how those events played a role in shaping the geopolitical perception of NATO as a hostile impunitive military bloc. [Democrats] have managed to convince [themselves] that after all of that, other countries need have no worries about NATO deploying missiles at their doorstep. The fact that people can still willfully presume that the US/NATO is a trustworthy entity after all that happened in the middle east over the last 20 years is mind boggling. Absolutely mind boggling! And people think I'm the crazy one with the Mars astrology stuff.

352. If Trump violated the espionage act, he won't get a public defense trial or jury. Prosecution won't even have to prove intent. Also, the last people that were convicted of violating the espionage act in relation to nuclear secrets were executed. See Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. This will further divide the country.

353. The biggest danger is the Zaporizhzhia power plant. Russia wants to direct its power into Russia and away from Ukraine's electrical grid. Both sides have accused each other of shelling the plant and at this point there is no way to know who is telling the truth since both sides have used unscrupulous tactics throughout this war.

354. Ukraine is blowing up the bridges over the Dnieper river, leaving Russia having to rely on ferries in order to get supplies to troops stationed just west of the Dnieper. However, that may be unfeasible for Russia and will thus leave those Russian troops trapped in some areas just west of the Dnieper at the mercy of Ukrainian artillery. There are also apparently pro-Ukrainian Russian sympathizers conducting sabotage operations, blowing up Russian ammunition depots on behalf of Ukraine. Not sure of the origin of these infiltrators, whether or not if they are in fact sympathizers or trained by a foreign intelligence service. Zelensky has been very discreet about the recent attacks on Russian territories in Crimea, choosing to avoid saying outright that Ukraine carried out the attack or confirm that some infiltrators launched the operation from behind enemy lines. Still and all, recent Ukrainian successes will further aid Zelenskyy's ability to persuade western nations for more supplies and aid. Russia will likely conduct provocations in Latin America in order to get the US to focus its foreign policy there. Such provocations could include Russian sending warships to Nicaragua or supplying Latin countries will long range missile systems, all of which would provoke the US, but force them to shift their focus closer to home.

355. The US is no different than Russia in not wanting any of its neighbors

to have heavy weapons that could reach home soil. The US would invade Nicaragua or any Latin American country just for obtaining long range missiles, let alone actually using them. Heck we invaded a country simply because we THOUGHT they had long range missiles and that country is not even on the same continent as the US. Furthermore, we criticize Russia for being alarmed at NATO expansion and its closest neighbors being supplied missile systems, but at the same time we sit here and rationalize for ourselves that same concern we criticize Russia for having. This US military industrial complex is the paragon of hypocrisy. Go figure, we actually have legislation that gives us the right to sanction countries that are supplying either Ethiopia or Tigray with weapons and thus prolonging and exacerbating that conflict. But yet, it is ok for the US to protract and escalate the war in Ukraine.

356. You're using selective retention to completely ignore the role that US foreign policy has played in fomenting the crisis in Ukraine. You're also trying to draw a broader overview of the geopolitics in eastern Europe in order to further downplay specifics that led to the conflict, specifics very much based on actions taken by the United States to instigate a conflict in that region. First specific was the US insisting on Ukraine joining NATO, when NATO as an organization knew well in advance that such a scenario would provoke Russian aggression. The second specific that you completely ignore is how the Trump administration arming Ukraine with heavy weapons and pulling out of a nuclear treaty with Russia further exacerbated mistrust between the US and Russia. You mention Stalin over and over again and try to convince people with the same talking point used by the United States during the time of McCarthyism and the Vietnam war, talking points that many on the left, ironically at that time, didn't buy for one second--quite remarkable considering that the Soviet Union ACTUALLY existed at that time. And now that the Soviet Union is past tense, you think somehow such references are more relevant today when it comes to scaring people into buying into atrocious US foreign policy? It failed to work for the Vietnam war and it will not work now. Russia has no more right than the US to dictate what a sovereign country does within its own borders and who that country wants to ally itself with, and what weapons that country wants to attain for its own military. However, you believe that only the US should be allowed to oppress other nations and decide what a sovereign nation should do in their own countries and yet you fail to see how this is a very problematic perspective that denotes an extreme double standard. You also want to give Ukraine a pass for using any means to defend and reclaim their lost territory when we as a nation have designated nations--trying to do the very same--as terrorists. You want to isolate Ukraine's situation and have them exempt from the international laws of warfare, laws that every nation on the planet is expected to abide by. If you have a problem with condemning Ukraine's

defensive tactics of hiding behind civilian and residential areas, don't take it up with me, take it up with the Geneva Convention.

357. ISIS is still around because nether Russia or the US has an answer for urban combat and subterranean warfare. Sunni extremist are the masters of this, and they will look to eventually wear out US and Russian forces in Syria. After all these years of aerial bombardments from both Russia and US forces, they are still around. Its insane. And I know they view themselves as being in the same positions as the Ukrainians, having faced an even more unjustified invasion of their country by a larger power back in 2003. Russia's invasion was an intervention of an ongoing Civil War between Ukrainian and Russian speakers, and in that case, there is some connection. But the invasion of Iraq by US forces was in cold blood in which no backdrop existed--Iraq is on another continent and had no weapons capable of reaching US soil nor had any intention of acquiring them. Much of ISIS are remnants of the Iraq insurgency from 2004 and are using any means to what they would call defending themselves from occupation. This is why terrorism is very difficult to stop, and if you look at history, most countries could only gain their independence by using terrorism. It worked for the Algerians in 1960, and heck it even worked for Chechnya back in 1996 during the first Chechen war. Read about the actions Shamil Basaev. Sick individual, but his tactics got Russia to withdraw forces from the country in 1996. Was he right to defend Chechnya by any means?? I think people are choosing to ignore reality and indulge fantasy. ISIS Recruitment is probably up right now, since much of the Muslim world is seeing a double standard play out in real time, where the west is encouraging nations like Ukraine to use any means to defend themselves from occupation, but at the same time telling Sunni victims of NATO and US bombings to just get over it. The fact that the US is still bombing Syria shows that ISIS membership has ticked up recently. ISIS is targeting both Syria and Iraq because there has been longstanding hostility between the two countries and it always been the agenda of Ba'athist party--the party of Saddam Hussein--to unite the entire Arab world, hence why it would make sense as to why ISIS is targeting Syria and will likely go after Lebanon as well. In fact, at one point, Syria was under Ba'athist rule. But because Syria sided with the coalition forces when Iraq tried to take over Kuwait in the early 90s, contention has existed between the two. Much of what later comprised Al Qaeda also sided against Iraq during the gulf war, which makes it hard to see the connection between Saddam loyalists and Al Qaeda. But the US has made the connection, so I don't question their intelligence.

358. 2 times in Russia's history, war had led to massive government changes in Russia. 1905 Russia/Japan war led to an uprising that precipitated sweeping changes in the Russian constitution with the

formation of the second Duma. World War I led to the Bolshevik revolution. Hence why Russia has a time limit on how long it can stay involved in a military conflict before the Russian people get fed up. Russia knows this, which is why they are scrambling to get volunteer fighters into eastern Ukraine so that Russia can reduce the casualty count on its own fighters. From what I hear, an underground anti-Putin group in Russia is already becoming active and may have played a role in the recent attacks on Russian soil.

359. Ukraine will have trouble regaining the Russia backed separatist areas in the east without having some way to recruit people within that local population of ethnic Russians who could facilitate a way for the Ukrainian army to advance back into those areas. The fact that most identify as Russian will make it easier for them to consign to the new status quo, and harder for Ukraine to recruit any pro-Ukrainian entities there. Constant shelling is not going to do it and will just prolong a stalemate. Russia, however, is running out of time in Ukraine. Their own population is becoming very antsy.

360. Would not surprise me if anti-Putin Russian factions inside Russia are orchestrating these [attacks]. This could be the beginning of more unrest inside Russia and history repeating itself. While many of us understand NATO provocation, it is obviously not a strong enough justification for the Russian population to buy into. Public support is ultimately the bottom line that decides on Russia being able to carry out a protracted war, and in this case of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, they clearly don't have it. Russia will have to withdraw sooner than expected if further opposition emerges inside Russia.

361. Russia has historically had some embarrassing losses militarily and didn't resort to nukes. Russia lost the first Chechen war in 1996 against a tiny country the size of Connecticut with no where near the funding and arms that Ukraine is getting. Russia will, however, use a nuke if they feel Russia's security is being threated by a major western power. Russia will prepare for a second offensive against Kyiv but more than likely, years after they pullout of eastern Ukraine. They have to pull out to avoid the prospect of the Russian people turning against and attempting to overthrow the Kremlin. The second offensive against Kyiv would also be on the heels of a major attack on Russian soil, whether it be real or a false flag.

362. The democrats were anti-war when Trump was in office and kept pressure on Trump to avoid starting a military confrontation with NK and Iran. Not sure what happened to the democrats between then and now. Big-time shift. Now they are completely pro-war in every sense of the

word.

363. Right now, [democrats] are pushing this Neo-McCarthyism and apparently CIA/NATO is hosting an enemies of Ukraine list at myrotvorets.center. This site doxxes people it has concluded to be enemies of Ukraine. It even has American citizens on it who are advocating for a negotiated settlement. Oliver Stone and Noam Chomsky are on it for their comments about Ukraine. Recently added was Roger Waters of Pink Floyd. They are being accused of being accomplices of the Russian invasion. None of these guys encouraged Russia to invade Ukraine. This is crazy. These people are now strategic targets. Not only for Ukraine but also for Russia because if something happens to them, many in the west will first point the finger at this website and likely withdraw support for Ukraine irrespective of who or what is responsible for their deaths. Even more ominously, westerners may start outright supporting Russia's invasion of the country. This is not good on so many levels. We reached a point in this war when calling for peace becomes aiding the aggressor. Some of the people on this list have already been killed. Darya Dugina had been on this list and now has the word "liquidated" written across her picture.

364. Cobalt, which is the most important thermal stability component in lithium ion batteries, is heavily mined in the Congo by Chinese companies who have a number of contracts with the Congolese government. In recent years, though, China has not been living to expectations when it comes to building infrastructure there, i.e. roads, schools, etc in exchange for being allowed to mine the cobalt mineral. The US believes they have found a way to make lithium ion batteries without cobalt, thereby preventing their own military defense from being completely reliant on China's lithium ion batteries. However, the manganese that is being touted as the replacement for cobalt in battery manufacturing is not proven to be anywhere near as effective as cobalt in terms of both thermal stability and battery life. BTW Russia now has access to 500,000 tons off lithium in eastern Ukraine. US defense could end up becoming reliant on both Russia and China.

365. The backdrop certainly does not work in Russia's favor. Hard to win a war without public support and hard to convince the public of the necessity to fight without any precipitating factor that would have made the Russians fear for their security. This dynamic was in play during the first Chechen war, which is why Chechnya actually drove out the Russians. The second Chechen war, however, was precipitated by terror attacks on Russian soil which gave Russia the justification to launch a full scale invasion along with the public support. Hence why they won the second Chechen war and annexed the entire country. Without public support, Russia does not have much time before a possible coup attempt or revolt

arises and potentially overthrows the Kremlin. Instead of respecting this factor, Putin has doubled down, and such arrogance will be his downfall.

366. Huge strategic mistake by the Democrats during the Trump administration. Because of Trump's reckless rhetoric about immigration, the democrats tried to distance themselves from him by flirting with the idea of open borders, which gave off the impression that when they took office, border crossing restrictions would be laxed and everyone would be able to come right in. Now they are having trouble walking back those notions and are facing a disaster. What the democrats should have done during the Trump administration was advocate for strong border security, but without the harsh offensive rhetoric that Trump was employing. This would have kept people from getting the wrong impression about what the democrat's goals were as far as immigration. Unless I am wrong and the democrats are ok with an open border with Mexico. However, as far as I know, Biden authorized the further construction of the Trump border wall in southern Arizona. Now thanks to Critical Race Theory, the immigrants can argue that Texas really belongs to Mexico. Who is gonna challenge that?

367. Because Russia has more reinforcements and weapons, it's easier for them to apply less battlefield discipline. Hence why you could predict their sloppiness in this new era of warfare. The Russian army is mostly using drones equipped with EW systems like IMSI catchers(fake cellular towers) to locate Ukrainian positions through a process called triangulation. Once the coordinates are gathered, the information is sent to artillery units who then fire upon Ukrainian positions. Because of heightened surveillance activity via UAVs and GPS satellite, ground advances made by both sides are often perilous. But Russia has confidence they can replace the losses and this may be why they are more privy to being sloppy. Not to mention, the extremely low morale among Russian soldiers also plays a role in Russia's inefficiency at times. There is the cell phone aspect as well. Many Russian generals have been killed this way. Essentially it has often been the case that when their radios were no longer working or were lost, Generals would use their cell phones to relay information. Big mistake. Ukrainian cellular networks can pinpoint the exact spot where the cell phone was used, to which then Ukraine can fire HIMARS at the location and kill the general and everyone else in the area.

368. There was a Rand report circulating that tried explain that the US not only had the intention of weakening Russia, but also weakening Germany over fears of Germany exerting geopolitical independence due to England's exit from the EU. To my knowledge, the post WWII constraints levied upon Germany are still applicable. Germany as part of NATO cannot embark upon any unilateral military operation, they can only defend

NATO countries. So in essence, they are very much still subject to the influence of allied nations that fought in WWII such as the US and Britain. Ultimately, however, the Rand report turned out to be fake--as confirmed by Rand, and to be honest, it doesn't seem like the US is concerned about Germany, but I wonder if Germany is developing some resentment over sanctions, perhaps feeling tempted to break loose from those WWII constraints and become more geopolitically independent.

369. Back during World War II--since everyone like to make those comparisons to now--the US used nukes on Japan to prevent having to sacrifice more US soldiers, seeing that an invasion of japan's mainland would have resulted in a large number of US casualties. Russia will likely consider using nukes under similar auspices, decimating the population of Ukraine to completely break the will of its government and force them into unconditional surrender.

370. It does seem like [Biden's} own administration has accepted the fact that Biden is prone to major gaffes, and officials in the WH have often walked back much of what he says. Even when Biden was Vice President under Obama, many in Obama's administration, even Obama himself, was complaining about Biden propensity for making reckless statements.

371. Capitulation is death for so many people. Remember, when Zelensky first got in office in Ukraine, he was pushing for the Steinmeier formula which would have allowed the DPR and LPR to hold elections but be slowly re-integrated back into Ukraine. This was met with widespread protest in Kyiv demanding that Zelensky not capitulate. Peace is a death sentence for many leaders. Look at the assassinations of Anwar Sadat and Yitskah Rabin. Both were killed over their attempts to make peace between Israel and Palestinians.

372. GOP is not afraid of Russia, never has been . In fact, Lindsey Graham and John McCain had been pushing for sending weapons to Ukraine back in 2014. Mitt Romney was calling Russia America's number one foe since 2012. Now Lindsey Graham is saying that if Russia uses a nuclear weapon in Ukraine, the radiation fallout into Europe will trigger article 5 and permit NATO launch a full scale nuclear strike on Russia. Yet Democrats still have this belief that the GOP is pro-Russian. Major, major TDS. If the GOP wins in 2024, the democrats may be shocked to find out just how anti-Russia the GOP really is.

373. Not sure how the military can apply Critical Race Theory. CRT says that anyone(including liberals) who ultimately chooses to uphold the constitution regardless of their stance on equal rights is still somehow racist..... since it is argued by CRT proponents that the constitution itself

was meant for wealthy white landowners. The military swears an oath to defend the constitution, so its ironic that the military would try to incorporate this doctrine.

374. Yes, Obama screwed up big time during his second term. The police brutality, government spying, brutal drone attacks in the Mideast and Africa was done under his watch. And it was unwise for the democrats to abandon the all lives matter mantra simply because Trump said "all lives matter"

375. Trump Derangement Syndrome is a real phenomenon. People shouldn't base their politics on strictly remaining contrary to Trump. Ever been in a heated argument with someone and unable to agree with anything the other person says regardless if you actually agree with it or not? That is essentially basis of TDS. This happens the other way as well. There are some in republican party that go against democrat moves simply because the democrats are doing it. Look at the all war monger ex-military guys against the war in Ukraine simply because the democrats are the ones leading the helm right now. And it wouldn't surprise me if when the GOP wins in 2024, they will push forward by sending US troops to Ukraine. The GOP are not pacifists in any sense of the word and I think many who don't support the war in Ukraine see this, which is why many are beginning to see the democrats and republicans as a uni-party. If anyone thinks the GOP or Trump is the way out of the war in Ukraine, they may want to rethink that. Trump is not going to make the US look weak on the world stage by caving-in to Russia. Remember, Trump armed the Ukrainians and already proposed sending nuclear submarine to Ukraine to help them fend off Russia.

376. Right now, the enabling [of the war] is bi-partisan. Lindsey Graham has been the ringleader from day 1. Biden screwed up by promising Zelensky that the US would act "swiftly and decisively" if Russia invaded. This was essentially a pledge of commitment from the US to help Ukraine win the war. Now being this deep in, especially after having stifled peace talks back in March(yes the US and UK advised Zelensky against it), the US is facing its biggest humiliation in history by failing to stop Russia from taking parts of Ukraine after having been perceived by the world to be the greatest military power. The value of our US dollar, im sorry to say, is backed by our ability to intervene militarily in foreign affairs on behalf of allies, namely Saudi Arabia. But if Saudi Arabia sees Ukraine as an example of the US's ability to protect an ally, then they may just throw away the petrodollar agreement and look for a new partner. And we all know the consequences of that. There is no out for the US anymore and the

democrats and republicans have relegated peace to capitulation, Besides if Zelensky even considers a peace agreement with Russia, the far right in Ukraine will likely oust him very quickly. Ukraine, for the United States, is the US's attempt to clean up their reputation as an unreliable ally, especially after what has happened in Afghanistan, Libya and Syria. Unfortunately, with the annexations by Russia, the only option for the US in this regard is WWIII and a potential nuclear holocaust.

377. Biden saying whites are the biggest threat to the nation is very dangerous. If people look back at history, Stalin used this conciliatory approach towards the non-Russian republics in the Soviet Union, often pointing to Russian nationalism as the real threat to the Soviet Union. Read Stalin's early speeches as General Secretary. He was constantly pointing the finger at Russian nationalism to be the real threat to the Soviet Union. But what happened? This approach by Stalin actually led many non-Russian peoples of the Soviet Union, such as the Ukrainians, to believe that Stalin was giving the non Russian peoples of the Soviet Union the green light to assert their own extreme nationalist identity and separatism, which was actually the opposite effect of what Stalin intended his conciliatory approach to garner. And ironically, it was Stalin himself that ultimately carried out the crackdown on the non-Russian nationalism when his conciliatory approach didn't work, and then he followed up his atrocities by actually pushing Russian nationalism in the Soviet Union. Huge irony there. Likewise, Biden doing such when it comes to his own demographic, much like Stalin, could be seen by non white Americans as the green light for non-white demographics to assert separatism and nationalism, which will ultimately do nothing but trigger more white nationalism, the total opposite of what Biden is intending. In fact, the democrats may find that they themselves will be the ones having to crack down on non-white nationalism/extremism. Not long ago, the FBI raided a black socialist solidarity group for having ties to the Russian government. Democrats want to put everything on one race, but learning from history, every demographic has to do their part to keep their own extremist elements in check. Don't get me wrong, its great that Biden wants to keep white nationalism in check, but in my opinion, its counter intuitive to think that allowing other demographics to assert nationalism and extremism will solve the problem. In all inevitability, it will only make the problem worse.

378. I think much of the terminology used by Russia to describe their military operations has a public relations aspect to it. The public is likely to be less perturbed by their government launching a counter-terrorist operation as opposed to a full-scale war, which may be part of the reason why Russia is insistent on not calling their military incursion into Ukraine an actual war.

379. One factor Russia has on their side is the fact that the areas they are occupying are ethnically Russian, which will make it easier to get people there to accept the new status quo. The weakness that Russia has is that Russian people, unlike Americans, will confront their government over poor foreign policy. They've done this twice.--in 1905 over the Japan/Russia war and of course again in 1917 during the Bolshevik Revolution--the latter led to the overthrow of the Russian empire. Russians at least have a bullshit meter with their government. Americans on the other hand tend just believe the government at face value and never question things as they are happening. Sure, America can look back in hindsight and say yeah this was wrong, but in real time, they are largely blind. Even after all the insidious things that the US has done, American people still label those mistrustful of government as conspiracy theorists. There are so many ways the US can justify meddling in Ukraine and subverting Russia's goals. Russia largely stifled America's goals in the middle east, both when it came to weakening Iran and Syria. During the Iraq insurgency, Iran was arming the shitte militias against the US army and the only reason the US could not deter Iran was because Russia at that time was supplying Iran with heavy weapons and also nuclear material. So what did Bush do to remove Russia from the equation, he declared to seek to admit Ukraine and Georgia into NATO in 2008, which forced Russia to focus on eastern European issues and not Mideast issues. But the Georgia war in 2008 was over quickly. Syria, meanwhile, was allowing Al Qaeda militants free passage into Iraq to help with the insurgency. Hence why the US wanted to overthrow the Assad government. Fast forward to 2011, we try to do that, but Russia remained engaged with Assad and intervened in the Syrian Civil war in 2015. And what did we do? We started sending weapons to Ukraine in 2017. Keep in mind, this game of distracting Russia from Mideast issues is largely a work of the Republicans. Now what is happening in 2022, Russia while at war with Ukraine has given the US the opportunity to set up more military bases in Syria. We keep Russia fighting in eastern Europe, we get to dominate the Middle East and keep our US dollar safe and cozy.

380. The democrats are struggling with their conciliatory approach being misconstrued as an invitation. Failure to convey this aspect during the Trump administration is leading many to think that borders are open and that since the Democrats are in power, they will simply let everyone in. Hence, why even more immigrants from central America migrated towards the US as soon Biden took office--thinking it was open borders/open season. And now Biden has to maneuver surreptitiously on the issue in order to quell the migrant surge without looking as though he is just as adamant as the republicans in protecting the borders, when in

fact he is. There are ways to quell public outrage without giving off the wrong impression. I think because the democrats were concerned about how Trump's reckless rhetoric would reflect on the entire country, they ultimately took the opposite extreme stance to help ease public outrage, but in doing so, they probably gave more credence to those far left elements than they wanted to, and now they are stuck with having to find a way out of it without looking as though they are betraying the impression they gave off while Trump was in office, an impression that made blacks think they would be getting reparations, central Americans think they would be allowed to cross over into the US without restriction, and the rest of the world think that US military hegemony abroad would be over. As we see, none of these are the case. The lesson learned here is that its best to combat extremism with moderation, and not the opposite extreme.

381. Ukrainian officials and allies rail against Elon Musk tweet. Elon [Musk] may end up on Ukraine's myrotvorets list, which is essentially a kill list that makes little distinction between those who have killed Ukrainians during the conflict and those who have spoken against total Ukrainian victory. I think Tucker Carlson had recently been added. There are a number of westerners on there and its hosted on NATO servers, which is quite scary when you think about it. There was plenty of time to prevent the war in Ukraine. In fact, had Angela Merkel still been in power in Germany, February 24th would have never happened. Why? Because she would have refused to admit Ukraine into NATO. And now Ukraine has applied for expedited membership, yet NATO still seems apprehensive about letting them join, despite insisting that they intend to help Ukraine defeat Russia. Makes no sense. Furthermore, Ukraine joining NATO would invoke article 5, meaning that all NATO countries would have to come to the defense of Ukraine against Russia which could trigger a nuclear war.\

382. Kanye West drawing controversy for wearing a "White Lives Matter" T-shirt at Paris fashion week. This is obviously a conciliatory approach on his part, but he has to be careful not to give off the wrong impression. There are certainly elements of BLM that have to be kept in check, but going the opposite extreme, even though could help alleviate some tension, it can also have unintended consequences. The best approach is "all lives matter." Western society functions efficiently when the different ethnicities are allotted some anonymity and not put on the spot. This is why Jews were able to excel in the 19th century in Europe. Meritocracy and color blindness, which originated from the French Revolution, provided the anonymity required for diverse peoples to function among one another. Of course, extreme Zionism followed by Nazism tore down the anonymity and paved the way for the Holocaust. Bringing attention to race ultimately brings attention to comparative advantage and disadvantage which can further drive division. Initially, Trump tried to

push "all lives matter" and tried to call the country together, but was not given the honor. The media continued to vilify him, even after he publicly disavowed the alt-right and David duke on numerous occasions. Eventually, though, the democrats will have to try the same thing--reunify the country--in the midst of all this separatism. Hopefully, the attempt won't be subverted in the way they subverted Trump's attempt to unite the country and put race on the backburner. A divided country is unsustainable in a capitalist country where we have to compete with each other for jobs and resources. Being divided along racial lines just adds fuel to the fire. The two don't mix.

383. Roger Waters is right about NATO. It is clear that NATO played a role in the provocation, but that's a moot point at this juncture. The war in Ukraine has already crossed the rubicon and Ukraine will resist until they reclaim their land. There was a opening for peace back in March, but Boris Johnson subverted it. Looking for peace now at this point after the war has already taken its course is a pipe dream and now the US has to make good on their commitments. Hence why the GOP will win in 2024 because you can best believe their platform will revolve around standing firm against Russia--lets face it, the republicans are the one who sought to protect Ukraine when the world was ignoring what was happening there. And when it comes to wars, its pointless to vote democrat. That is silly. If the goal is to stand firm against America's enemies, irregardless of consequences like nuclear war, we could have just stuck with Trump--he has already proposed sending nuclear bombers to eastern Europe. Yes, Trump likes Putin, but will not take kindly to Putin making nuclear threats to the US. Keep in mind, while Trump was saying nice things about Putin, he was also sending heavy weapons to Ukraine in 2017 and also pulling the US out of nuclear treaties with Russia in 2019. Doesn't sound like much of a "friend" Ultimately If the goal is war, then its best to let the GOP handle it.

384. OPEC agrees deep cuts to oil production despite U.S. pressure. That would have been contrary to his infrastructure plan for investing in clean energy technology. Besides shale wells are are short-lived, unlike conventional wells. The shale wells have been drying up since 2019 and the US will not be able to rely on fracking in the long term. In the short term, Biden increasing shale oil drilling would be hazardous to the environment and also an admission of failure on his part on environmental issues.

385. After the destruction of the Nord Stream pipeline, I wonder where Europe will shift their energy reliance-- the Middle East or the United States. Seems like both regions are adamant on refusing to increase oil production. With OPEC oil production cuts and the destruction of the Nord Stream, however, there is a massive opportunity for US shale to cut

into OPEC's market share and have Europe shift their reliance from Russian oil and gas to US oil and gas. The US took advantage of this opportunity of cutting into OPEC's market share back in 2017. While this is a massive short term opportunity for US oil companies, it presents a massive conundrum for the pro-environment Biden administration, who are really pushing for a transition to clean energy. And perhaps, for this reason, the US would rather Europe respond to the destruction of Nord Stream with a greater sense of urgency to transition away from fossil fuels altogether.

386. Biden's reckless rhetoric towards MBS in the early part of his tenure has backfired and is the main reason why Biden is unable to persuade the Saudis. Now Saudi Arabia won't even listen to the US. The US even offered to buy 200 million barrels of oil from OPEC if OPEC would ramp up production, as was stated in the CNN article you posted. But to no avail. The higher gas prices, inflation, threat of nuclear war, and astronomical crime rates will not work in the Democrats favor during mid-terms. The US will now either have to pay more for oil in order to fill their backlog of strategic petroleum reserves or ramp up shale oil production and fill the atmosphere with high levels of methane and greenhouse gases. Then what will CNN say to justify that? That global warming has dropped significantly since Trump left office and that we may not need to rush the transition to clean energy??

387. Guess who imposed sanctions on Nord Stream 2 back in 2019 to keep Russia from supplying energy to Germany and thus exerting more influence in Europe? Mr. Pro-Russia himself. Massive dichotomy between Trump's pro-Putin rhetoric and his decisively anti-Russian policy. If America's goal is to weaken Russia, then it may be best to let the GOP handle the job. Lets face it, they are the ones who were aware of the threat before the fact.

388. Looks like the Biden admin thinks a nuclear attack is imminent Serious irony there. I remember when Trump first entered office, many people, including me, blasted him for antagonizing NK and potentially starting a nuclear conflict. I remember that so vividly. And now a democratic president gets in office and does the same thing, with potentially killing the petrodollar agreement as icing on the cake, lol. This is politics 101.

389. The FBI knew about the Hunter Biden laptop. There was some confirmation bias involved, The FBI was certain that the contents on the hard drive of the laptop were linked to a Russian disinformation campaign, which had been rampant on Social Media prior to the Trump election in 2016, hence why they could justify telling Facebook to suppress

information regarding the Hunter Biden laptop. Obviously in this political climate, one has to ask if suspicion of Russian disinformation was a spigot aimed to protect Joe Biden and help him win the election in 2020. Moreover, when it comes to email forgery, which at the time was largely suspected to have been carried out by Russian operatives, much of the nefarious components had arose abroad, not originating in Russia, but in Ukraine, as there were corrupt elements there claiming to have damning information on Hunter Biden and offering to sell the information they were purporting to have to Trump associates for 5 million. Ukrainian legislator Andrii Derkach had claimed to have a laptop belonging to Hunter Biden. He was later sanctioned by the US. Linking the Hunter Biden Laptop contents to a Russian disinformation campaign slowed down getting to the bottom the investigation, but at this point many of emails on the laptop have already been verified as authentic, and many mainstream media outlets are just now confirming this after the 2020 election. One of the Burisma executives, Vadym Pozharskyi, at the behest of Hunter Biden, met with Joe Biden at a dinner party in 2015 and shortly thereafter, Joe Biden had the prosecutor probing corruption at Burisma removed while Biden was still Vice President of the US. Easy to see how that raises suspicion. But it was allegedly confirmed by attendee Rick Leach of the World Food Programme that the dinner was only about food security and not politics, and that Biden didn't stay very long at the dinner, never even sitting down. Still and all, this was never probed or looked into by investigators. The day after the event, Vadym Pozharskyi, sent Hunter Biden an email thanking him for introducing him to his father. So it is likely that they did speak to each other. About what?, There is no way to confirm at this point, nor will there ever be an investigation. Delaware computer store owner Mac Isaac, who first received the laptop from Hunter Biden, was shocked this nor the laptop was even mentioned at the Trump impeachment trial in 2020. Right now, the criminal charges that could be pursued against Hunter Biden have to do with him not reporting his income from his various Chinese business dealing as indicated in the emails on his laptop and also having purchased a gun while being addicted to drugs. Of course after the fact, a number of media outlets are now admitting that the emails on Hunter Biden's laptop were not Russian disinformation.

390. Once again supply routes for the Russian army are compromised. Now Russia will have to use ferries and other parts of annexed territory in Ukraine in order to get supplies to Crimea and to Kherson. The real challenge for Ukraine will be cutting off the Izvaryne border crossing connecting Luhansk with the Russian Federation. That one area was critical in the separatists maintaining control of the breakaway regions because it allowed Russia to bring in supplies. Obviously, Ukraine has many sympathizers in Russia which does not bode well for the Kremlin

and could lead to attacks further inside Russia which will only wear out the occupation in Ukraine. However, we all have to keep in mind that Russia has yet to strike command centers in Kiev.

391. I thought the US doesn't need to rely on cobalt anymore??? Then explain why are we wasting time mining cobalt when we don't need them for batteries anymore?? And why is the article saying the new cobalt mine in Idaho will account for only 10% of the current US demand for it?? Exactly, the other options like lithium iron phosphate batteries are unreliable and nowhere near as stable as cobalt based lithium ion batteries. Military equipment is power hungry and lithium iron phosphate doesn't have the energy density to power the demanding equipment. There is a supply chain that our military is completely reliant upon, one which starts in the Congo where the cobalt is mined and ends in China where cobalt-based Lithium Ion batteries are manufactured and sold to the US. Would be very odd if the US were in a war with China and at the same time needing to buy critical supplies from them.

392. The way the media is spinning this is by saying that Trump never actually filled the strategic oil reserves. They also skillfully keep out the fact that the Democrats blocked Trump's effort to fill the SPR when the price of oil was at historic lows during the pandemic. Of course, in terms of the short term benefit regarding filling the SPR at that time, one can point out that drillers at that time were not too enthused about transporting their oil from inland to SPR sites near the gulf coast, mainly in fear that storing their oil at the SPR cites would degrade the quality of their product. Also because oil prices were low, drilling companies were more keen to cut production instead of ramping it up. Still and all, when looking in hindsight, Trump's decision to attempt to fill the strategic oil reserves indicated good prudence and foresight on his part, seeing the situation we are facing now.

393. The Democrats were the first proponents of "all lives matter." It wasn't until the Trump uttered the same words that they ditched "All lives matter." Now look at the racialized mess we're in. Here is the proof that it was the democrats that initially pushed the "all lives matter" mantra. https://www.npr.org/sections/itsallpolitics/2015/07/31/427851451/democratic-candidates-stumble-over-black-lives-matter-movement "Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley each used the phrase "all lives matter" in this early campaign. And Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders has said, 'Black lives matter, white lives matter, Hispanic lives matter.'"

394. Start the countdown for the collapse of the US dollar and the overthrow of the petrodollar agreement. Last time Biden was castigating

Saudi Arabia, MBS offered to sell his oil to the Chinese for Yuan instead of USD. Lets wait and see what MBS does next. The US is on a suicide mission.

395. Liz Truss's brief tenure as Prime Minister as a unconditional supporter of Ukraine will resemble the goals of the Republican Party, should they win in 2024. That is, if the majority of Republicans continue to support weapons delivery to Ukraine. Because if they do, they will run into similar problems that Liz Truss encontered, namely how to mitigate the rising costs of energy without adding too much costs for the government. She tried to implement a cap on household energy costs that would have in turn costs the UK government 100 billion. This was followed up with a proposal for tax cuts across the board that would have been funded by increased borrowing. Not very efficient, but goes to show how the war in Ukraine complicates everything. Truss did however remove the ban on fracking and issued many offshore oil drilling permits, which would help the UK respond to the energy shortage. Many republicans in the US would like to see Biden do the same. The Republican party in the US will obviously have to operate like Liz Truss if they win office in 2024 and if they continue to support Ukraine. Here is the problem, though, The Republican party is so clearly split on the war in Ukraine, and just recently Mike Pence has come out and said he would not support Trump running for President, calling him a Putin-apologist. And many of Trump's supporters view him as someone who would stop sending aid to Ukraine. Pence, Romney, and Lindsey Graham are not on the same page with republicans like House GOP leader Kevin McCarthy who forecasted that Ukraine aid would be reduced if the Republicans win in 2024. To me, this seems like it would be a major flashpoint that could stifle republican unity, since the war in Ukraine and how it will pan out in the coming years will affect the goals of the Republican party, particularly as it relates to cutting taxes and reducing regulations on business. I think a third party will come out of this friction that is brewing.

396. Russia's influence in Latin America changes the whole dynamic between countries like Venezuela and the US, because now that the US needs Venezuelan oil, not to mention the fact that Venezuela has close ties with Russia, the US will consequently have to make some concessions on Venezuela's terms, especially when it comes to sanctions and state dept. travel warnings, which has hurt tourism in Venezuela. The problem with Biden is that he taking a hard line approach on foreign policy without guarding what is happening right under his nose, such as the case of Russian nationals both using shell companies as a front to steal US technology and ship it to Russia, as well as helping Venezuela evade US sanctions on oil exports. According to the US Monroe Doctrine, any European nations interfering in the affairs of any independent nation in

the western hemisphere is to considered an act of war against the United States. We will see how the US imposes this mandate in the coming years, because we know if Russia wants to remove US influence out of eastern Europe, all they have to do is increase their own influence in Latin America.

397. Wow, its alarming how the media and the state can get away with suppressing facts in real time and then admit they were mistaken after the fact. Studies are now confirming the vaccine do cause adverse affects like myocarditis among younger people, longer menstrual cycles among women which makes it more difficult for them to have children. Now Pfizer is admitting they had no idea if the vaccine could stop transmission? This means that it is likely that the vaccine actually increases the spread of the virus since it suppresses the body's type-1 interferon response. One of the worse instances of misinformation relayed by the media was that hydroxychloroquine was completely ineffective for COVID when standard protocol for many hospitals around world treating severe cases of Covid was in fact hydroxyqloroquine. This was TDS at its worst, denying the effectiveness of something solely based on whether or not Trump advocated for it. This is so ridiculous.

Index

A

activists
105
Afghanistan
11, 20, 21, 53, 58–61, 70, 84, 118
agreement
73, 77, 78, 82, 92, 107, 117, 118, 122, 124
airstrike
21, 41, 71
airstrikes
25, 61, 70, 96
Algerians
112
al-Hashimi
70
Al-Qaeda
62
al-Qurayshi
70
alt-right
10, 21, 49, 65, 121
al-Zarqawi
40
America
4–6, 8–10, 13, 16, 17, 20, 25, 35, 36, 42, 48, 57, 61, 62, 64, 67, 73, 75, 76, 83, 85, 87, 91, 93, 102, 110, 119, 125, 126
American
1, 4, 5, 8–10, 12, 16, 18, 20–22, 30, 32, 44, 48, 58, 59, 61, 73, 76, 80, 90, 92, 93, 95, 101, 109, 111, 114, 119
Americanism
11
animalism
48
annexation
69, 72
anti-abortion
80, 105
anti-american
9, 29, 75, 76, 82
anti-corruption
90
anti-government
6, 33, 79
anti-intellectual
109
anti-Iran
52
anti-Putin
113
anti-Russian
88, 90, 122
anti-Trump
80
antiwar
69, 84
anti-western
53
anti-white
34
anti-Zelensky
90
Anti-Zionist
49
apmoore
1
Arab
35, 44, 55, 62, 68, 112
Arabia
25, 33, 37–39, 50, 53, 56–59, 62, 63, 68, 84–86, 93, 95, 97, 98, 106, 117, 122, 125
Arabs
25, 35, 62
Assad
21, 23–29, 38, 40, 41, 44, 45, 50–54, 61, 70, 77, 96, 99, 108, 119
Azov
69, 100, 101

B

Ba'athist
112
banking
6, 16, 91
Bannon
6–8, 13
Barack
9, 11
barack obama
9, 11
Basaev
112
batteries
98, 99, 114, 124
b-cell
65
Belarusians
89
Belgium
46
betrayal
2, 6, 18
bias
27, 28, 30, 75, 122
biased
15
Biden
48, 49, 51, 76, 77, 79–83, 87, 93, 95, 99, 104, 115–19, 121–25
black lives matter
1, 21, 30, 47, 63–65, 104, 124
blackness
48
blacks
1, 2, 13, 16, 35, 47, 48, 56, 61, 105, 120
blame
34, 63, 64, 67, 74, 97
blm
47–49, 100, 105, 120
Boko
54, 56
boko haram
54
Bolshevik
113, 119
bombings
14, 102, 112
Bretton
62
bretton woods
62
Brexit
25
Britain
16, 25, 79, 116

British
15, 16
Bukovina
107
Bundeswher
16
Bush
20, 24, 34–36, 53, 77, 83, 88, 109, 119

C

campaign
1, 3–7, 14, 27, 30, 77, 122–24
capitalism
24, 94
Carson
7, 8, 12, 13
casualties
22, 24, 25, 41, 46, 53, 56, 70, 97, 116
CDC
57
ceasefire
23, 46, 57, 78, 82, 86
chancellor
86
chaos
3, 62, 63
Charlottesville
21
Chechnya
112, 114
China
14, 20, 22, 26, 27, 33, 35, 39, 43, 44, 75, 77, 81, 83, 93, 98, 99, 114, 124
China's
35, 94, 114
Chomsky
114
Christianity
6
civilians
23–26, 28, 35, 43, 45, 46, 51, 53–56, 59, 72, 77, 79, 97, 106, 108–10
Clarence
104, 105
clarence thomas
104, 105
CNN
81, 122
cobalt-based
124
colorblind
64
commitment
84, 117
comparative
15, 16, 120
comparative advantage
15, 16, 120
concede
24, 108
Congo
98, 114, 124
conservative
6, 9, 23, 68, 104, 105
conservatives
7, 36, 75, 104, 105
contrarianism
68, 107
coronavirus
43–45
coronaviruses
50
Covid
57, 126
Crimea
66, 69, 72, 77–79, 103, 110, 123
cryptocurrencies
43
cryptocurrency
42, 43, 52

D

Dallas
21, 49
Darya
114
darya dugina
114
David
14, 49, 65, 121
david duke
14, 49, 65, 121
death
31, 33, 42, 43, 49, 53, 55, 57, 58, 61, 63, 65, 66, 75, 82, 93, 98, 103, 106, 116
deaths
20, 41, 57, 58, 97, 114
de-centralized
101
defeated
24, 41, 45
deflation
10, 15
deflationary
11, 62
democrat
80, 117, 121
democratic
33, 34, 41, 44, 48, 81, 98, 104, 122
democrats
6, 31, 34, 36, 47–49, 75, 79–81, 83, 88, 101, 105, 107, 109, 110, 113–22, 124
demographic
40, 80, 89, 101, 118
de-radicalization
40
de-radicalize
1
diplomacy
1, 4, 5, 39, 46, 76, 80, 82–84, 89
disavowed
10, 49, 65, 121
disavowed david duke
49
disavowed the alt-right
65, 121
Dnieper
110
Dnipro-Donetsk
93
dollar
30, 32, 33, 38, 39, 52, 53, 62, 63, 85, 102, 117, 119, 124
donald trump
2–5, 7, 8, 13, 21, 76, 77
Donbas

66, 69, 73, 78, 81, 97, 101, 103
DPR
71, 73, 82, 84, 116
duke
14, 49, 65, 121

E

eastern europe
27, 77–79, 81, 83, 84, 88, 96, 111, 119, 121, 126
eastern ukraine
66, 69, 71, 72, 78, 81, 101, 109, 113, 114
eastward
98
eastward expansion
98
Eisenhower
76
Elon
120
elon musk
120
emigration
32
employment
13
enemies
38, 70, 83, 90, 114, 121
England
16, 38, 79, 84, 85, 90, 94, 106, 107
Erdogan
25, 26, 40, 46, 61, 108
espionage
30, 35, 94, 110
European
5, 12, 16, 33, 45, 60, 85, 87, 100, 119, 125
European-American
49
Europeans
57, 61
executed
110

F

Facebook
1, 104, 105, 122
familiarity
14, 42, 75
FBI
30, 118, 122
FDR's
29
federal government
10, 102
federal reserve
10, 15, 62
feminist
104
food
15, 16, 23, 103, 123
fracking
30, 58, 121, 125
France
16, 17, 71, 77, 78, 80, 84, 85, 88, 90, 94, 98, 100, 106, 107
Franco-Prussian
75
free-market
7
Freud
32

G

Gaddafi
99
gas
21, 28, 30, 44, 53, 55, 61, 66, 69, 70, 86, 91–93, 98, 122
Gaza
29, 38, 42, 51, 56, 84, 97
Geneva
112
genocide
40, 84
george hw bush
34–36
george w bush
20, 88
Georgia
77, 78, 80, 83, 88, 92, 119
Germany
16, 17, 25, 45, 46, 69, 71, 74, 75, 77, 78, 80, 84–86, 88, 89, 94, 95, 98, 100, 102, 106, 107, 115, 116, 120, 122
Ghandi
87
globalism
32
Gorbachev's
12
govt
26–28
Graham
116, 117, 125
greenhouse
122
Greenspan
22
guerrillas
67

H

hackers
29
Hamas
35, 56, 57, 84, 97, 108
Harams
56
hayat tahrir
44, 61
hayat tahrir al-sham
61
Hezbollah
37, 42, 55
Hillary
1, 3, 28, 124
hillary clinton
3, 124
HIMARS
108, 115
Hispanic
124
Hispanics
4, 35

Hitler
2, 72, 85, 89, 90, 94, 106, 107, 109
holocaust
5, 118, 120
holodomor
101
Hormuz
97
Hugo
93
hugo chavez
93
hydroxychloroquine
126
hydroxyqloroquine
126

I

identity
8, 61, 118
ideologies
7, 32, 49
ideology
6, 53, 101, 105
ignorance
31, 36, 49
illegally
4, 63
illegals
4
immigrants
5, 9, 12, 13, 28, 32, 115, 119
immigration
4, 5, 9, 12, 15, 17, 20, 28, 32, 115
imperialist
26
inciting
21, 52, 61
inciting sectarian
61
inciting violence
21, 52
India
5, 58, 84
indignation
11
INF
77
infiltrators
110
inflationary
11
influenza
50
instigate
78, 88, 91, 96, 111
instigating
36, 51, 63, 88, 90, 91
insurgency
26, 96, 97, 112, 119
intellectual
24, 44, 92, 109
intelligence
27, 29, 38, 71, 76, 78, 110, 112
invasion
24, 46, 50, 58, 66, 68, 69, 71–73, 75, 76, 78, 80, 81, 85, 86, 91, 99, 100, 104, 108, 112–14, 116
invasion by russia
81
invasion of cuba
75
invasion of iraq
24, 50, 75, 104, 112
invasion of japan's
116
invasion of russia
72, 73
invasion of ukraine
69, 76, 81, 91, 99, 100, 113
investing
94, 121
investors
34, 35
Iran
5, 18, 19, 24, 28, 29, 36–38, 41, 42, 48–55, 57, 58, 62, 70, 75, 77, 79, 83, 87, 92, 93, 95, 97, 108, 113, 119
Iran-backed
50, 62
Iranians
6, 48
Iraq
5, 11, 20, 24–26, 40, 41, 47, 48, 50–55, 58, 61, 62, 66, 68, 70, 75, 76, 80, 88, 96, 104, 108–10, 112, 119
Iraqi
40, 62
ISIS
21, 24, 26–28, 39–41, 44–46, 50–52, 54–61, 68, 70, 76, 77, 96, 97, 102, 104, 108, 112
Isis-k
60–62, 70
Islam
17, 27, 28, 70
Israeli
29, 35, 38, 45, 51, 56
Israelis
56, 108
Italy
17
Izvaryne
78, 123

J

Japan
16, 84, 85, 89, 112, 116, 119
Jesus
6
Jewish
57, 100
Jews
5, 16, 57, 85, 92, 120
Jihad
40, 53
jihadists
97
journalist
33
Judeo-Christain
8
Judeo-Christian
6
Jung
25

K

Kanye
 120
Kenosha
 63
Khashoggi
 33, 93, 95, 97
Kherson
 123
Khmelnytsky
 92
Kiev
 90, 124
Korea
 18–25, 27, 29, 31
kremlin
 91, 99, 113, 115, 123
Kuchma
 81
Kurdish
 26, 40, 41, 45, 108
Kurdistan
 26, 40
Kurds
 25, 26, 40, 44–47, 55, 61
Kuwait
 25, 62, 68, 112
Kyiv
 108, 113, 116

L

Lebanon
 41, 42, 55, 87, 112
Lemon
 35
lend-lease
 29
liberal
 8, 9, 11, 23, 35
Liberalism
 8, 11
liberals
 8, 47, 105, 116
Libya
 5, 26, 51, 52, 54, 61, 71, 75, 77, 81, 84, 88, 99, 110, 118
lithium
 103, 114, 124
London
 14, 85
Louisiana
 58
Luhansk
 66, 69, 71, 103, 123
lynching
 105

M

madrassas
 53, 58
Mahdi
 50, 61
Malcolm
 14
malcolm x
 14
manslaughter
 95
Mariupol
 69, 103, 106
Mars
 110
martyr
 87
massacre
 102
Massoud
 60, 61
McCarthyism
 76, 111
McConnell
 80, 102
Medvedchuk
 103
meritocracy
 64, 120
metric
 3, 34, 52, 87
Mexican
 62, 72
Mexico
 4, 60, 67, 73, 92, 115
militarily
 9, 16, 17, 45, 74, 84, 89, 113, 117
militarism
 76
militia
 41, 44, 63, 69, 77, 97
militias
 44, 62, 66, 97, 101, 119
minorities
 13, 40, 70
Minsk
 69, 73, 80
misinformation
 126
misogyny
 104
MLK
 87
mob
 63
Moderna
 65
mongering
 74
Moscow
 77, 81, 103
mrna
 65, 66
Muslim
 9, 38, 112
myocarditis
 126
myrotvorets
 114, 120

N

Napoleonic
 98
narrative
 20, 26, 31, 64, 74, 77, 92, 100, 104
narratives
 64, 74–76

nationalism
4, 36, 49, 76, 82, 101, 109, 118
NATO
12, 16, 17, 24, 29, 38, 45–47, 66–69, 71–74, 76–79, 82–90, 92, 94, 95, 97–100, 108, 110–16, 119–21
nato expansion
76, 77, 83, 88, 111
nazification
84
Nazis
21, 100
Neo-McCarthyism
114
Neo-nazi
101
Neo-Nazis
6
Netanyahu
29, 42
Nietzsche
64
Nixon
2, 13, 14, 64
non-violence
87
Nord
121, 122
nord stream pipeline
121
North
29, 66, 69
north crimean
66, 69
north korea
29
Northwoods
75

O

Obama
9, 11, 25, 26, 28, 30, 37, 47, 52, 53, 64, 75, 77, 79, 81, 88, 99, 101, 102, 105, 107, 116, 117
occupiers
103
oil
25, 26, 30, 33, 36, 37, 39, 42, 52, 53, 58, 61, 86, 87, 91–95, 97, 98, 107, 121, 122, 124, 125
oligarchs
66, 90
OPCW
55, 96
OPEC
39, 86, 87, 121, 122
Osama
50, 58, 60
osama bin laden
50, 58, 60

P

pacification
10, 12
Pakistan
53, 84
Palestine
27
Palestinian
29, 45, 55–57, 59
Palestinians
29, 38, 56, 103, 106, 108, 116
patriarchy
101, 104
patriotism
20, 75
Pereyaslav
92
petrodollar
117, 122, 124
Pfizer
126
PKK
26, 40, 41, 44, 46, 61, 108
Plutonium
49
polemics
20
political
1, 7, 13, 16, 17, 19–21, 27, 29, 31, 32, 41, 50, 66–68, 75, 76, 80, 83, 88, 91, 102, 103, 105, 107, 123
pornography
95
post-WWI
98
pre-emptive
12, 84, 85, 92
Pre-Iraq
86
pro-abortion
105
Pro-Assad
44
pro-Israel
49
propaganda
50, 53, 57, 59, 72, 80, 84
pro-Putin
122
pro-russia
74, 77, 122
pro-russian
66, 69, 72, 76, 81, 88, 90, 97, 101, 116
pro-Syrian
61, 68
pro-Ukrainian
69, 100, 110, 113
pro-vax
76
Psychoanalysis
32
Putin
1, 29, 38, 68, 76–79, 81, 83, 88–91, 93–95, 99, 100, 103, 107, 115, 121
Putin-apologist
125

Q

Qaeda
27, 40, 44, 50, 52, 59–61, 70, 112, 119
quo
4, 13, 68, 88, 113, 119

R

race
5, 10, 13, 16, 21, 30, 56, 60, 64, 65, 75, 77, 81, 89, 92, 101, 102, 104, 105, 115, 116, 118, 120, 121
racism
4, 30, 31, 47, 63, 64
racist
3, 4, 18, 21, 30, 31, 65, 100, 102, 105, 116
Reagan
2, 12, 13, 24, 34
re-election
13
referendum
66, 69, 72, 78
Referendums
69, 72
resurgence
8, 40
retaliation
12, 19, 38, 41, 56, 102
Rittenhouse
63, 64, 102
Rodman
22, 31
Rosenbaum
63
rubles
97
Russia-backed
81
Russia-Japan
68
Russian
29, 33, 38, 39, 44–46, 48, 61, 66, 68, 69, 71–76, 78–89, 91–96, 98–101, 103, 104, 106, 107, 109–15, 118, 119, 122, 123, 125
Russian-speakers
69, 82, 101
Russian-speaking
69, 71, 72, 78, 79

S

Saudi
25, 33, 36–39, 50, 53, 56–59, 62, 63, 68, 84–86, 93, 95, 97, 98, 106, 117, 122, 125
saudi arabia
25, 33, 37–39, 50, 53, 56–59, 62, 63, 68, 84–86, 93, 95, 97, 98, 106, 117, 122, 125
saudi consulate
33
saudi oil
36, 37, 86, 97
schizophrenic
18
SDF
41, 44
secession
66, 78, 79
segregation
15, 27, 31, 56
separatist
57, 60, 61, 71, 73, 78, 81, 90, 96, 101, 106, 113
separatists
47, 60, 61, 66, 69, 71, 75, 77, 78, 81, 88, 93, 97, 101, 103, 106, 109, 123
Shiite
27, 41, 51, 53, 58, 59, 62, 67
Shiites
27, 108
shootings
14, 102
Slavic
89, 90, 92
Slavs
89
Smollett
36
socialism
24, 34, 36, 102
Soleimani
41, 42
Somalia
5
Steinmeier
116
Sudan
5, 50
Sunnis
27, 40, 51, 53, 61, 96, 108
supremacists
100
Supreme
101, 102, 104
supreme court
101, 102, 104
Syria
5, 21, 23–29, 38, 41, 44–48, 50–55, 58, 61, 68, 70, 71, 75, 77, 81–84, 86, 87, 96, 97, 99, 108, 110, 112, 118, 119
Syrian
5, 24–26, 28, 38, 40, 41, 43–46, 52, 54, 55, 61, 68, 70, 81, 86, 96, 119
Syrians
70

T

Taiwan
81
Taliban
20, 58–62, 70
Tatars
72, 79, 103
TDS
109, 116, 117, 126
territorialism
64
terrorism
1, 4, 6, 8, 14, 15, 56, 112
terrorist
1, 5, 9, 14, 17, 40, 50, 51, 55, 60, 62, 64
terrorists
26, 46, 104, 108, 111
Texas
58, 67, 92, 115
Tigray
111
t-lymphocytes
65
tribalism
36, 47
trump
1–14, 18–21, 23–25, 27–32, 35, 41, 47–50, 52, 65, 74–77, 79, 81, 82, 88, 104, 105, 107–11, 113, 115, 117, 119–26

Truss's
125
tsar
72
Tshisekedi
98
turkey
25, 26, 38, 40, 41, 43–48, 55, 61, 84, 108

U

UAVs
107, 115
Ukraine
66–69, 71–101, 103, 106–21, 123–25
Ukrainian
66, 71–74, 76, 79, 80, 82, 89–91, 96, 97, 100, 101, 103, 104, 106, 109, 110, 112, 113, 115, 120, 123
Ukrainian-speakers
69
unemployment
34
unvaccinated
57, 59
USA
9, 16, 70
USD
33, 52, 53, 58, 86, 125

V

vaccinated
57–59
vaccination
57, 65
vaccine
50, 59, 60, 65–68, 126
vaccines
50, 65, 66
Venezuela
92–95, 125
Virginia
61
virus
43, 50, 65, 126
viruses
50
Vladimir
81, 83
vladimir putin
81, 83
Volcker
65
vote
3, 6, 104, 121
voted
1, 20, 48, 69, 72, 78, 88
votes
13

W

Waekusha
102
Wahhabis
53, 68
warmonger
85
whites
47, 102, 118
Wikileaks
99
woke
84
Woodrow
62
WWI
25, 74, 98
WWII
17, 45, 55, 74, 89, 115, 116
WWIII
89, 106, 118

Y

Yanucovich
81
Yemen
5, 37, 41, 42, 55, 58, 59, 83, 84, 87, 89, 93, 95, 97
Yitskah
116
yitskah rabin
116
Ypg
41, 44, 46, 55, 61, 108

Z

Zaporizhzhia
110
Zelensky
71–73, 78, 82, 85, 86, 90, 91, 97, 101, 110, 116–18
Zionism
120